

***Human Causes
of the Trojan War***

***Inner Journey into
Human Nature {2}***

Art Aeon

***Human Causes of the Trojan War:
Inner Journey into Human Nature {2}***
by Art Aeon

ISBN 9781988038834

Publisher: AEON PRESS, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
E-mail: canaeonpress@gmail.com

Printer & Distributor: Amazon.com KDP platform

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An earlier edition of this book was published in 2016
by Aeon Press, Canada, under the title:
Enigmas of the Trojan War by Art Aeon.

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Following Homer's Odyssey (2020)*
Human Causes of the Trojan War (2020)*
Awakening to One's Conscience (2020)*

*Printed and distributed by Amazon. com KDP platform.

Inner Journey into Human Nature

Following Homer's Odyssey

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

Human Causes of the Trojan War

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War
by Nestor and Odysseus*

Book 4: *Helen's Crucial Revelations
at her Death*

Awakening to One's Conscience

Book 5: *Pilgrimage of Penelope and
Odysseus to the Ruins of Troy*

Book 6: *Dawn of a New Era: Helenus,
Andromache, Aethon, and Ganymede*

Book 7: *Inner Awakening of Odysseus,
Penelope, and Homer-Outis*

Synopsis

Human Causes of the Trojan War: Inner Journey into Human Nature {2}

This work is a fictional narrative poem about possible human causes for the Trojan War. It unfolds imaginary dialogues among the characters *Odysseus*, *Penelope*, *Nestor*, *Helen*, and others in a numinous dream of *Homer-Outis*: the bard of *The Odyssey*. They discuss the beginning, the first nine years, and the fall of Troy in the tenth last year of the Trojan War. *Nestor* regrets that he wrongly persuaded the Greeks to invade Troy. *Odysseus* repents that he blindly strove to conquer Troy in vainglory. *Helen* reveals that insidious traitors within Troy plotted the Trojan War.

The poem consists of two parts:

Book 3: ***Reflections on the Trojan War by Nestor and Odysseus***

Book 4: ***Helen's Crucial Revelations at her Death***

Human Causes of the Trojan War
is the middle part {2} of an imaginary epic poem:
Inner Journey into Human Nature.

Prologue

Human Causes of the Trojan War: Inner Journey into Human Nature {2} is a fictional narrative poem in the tercet stanza. It unfolds imaginary dialogues among the characters *Odysseus*, *Penelope*, *Nestor*, *Helen*, and others about the possible human causes for the Trojan War, in a numinous dream of *Homer-Outis*: the bard of *The Odyssey*. They discuss the beginning, the first nine years, and the fall of Troy in the tenth last year of the Trojan War. *Nestor* regrets that he wrongly persuaded the Greeks to invade Troy. *Odysseus* repents that he blindly strove to conquer Troy in vainglory. *Helen* reveals that the horrible Trojan War was plotted by evil traitors within Troy.

The poem consists of two books:

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War by Nestor and Odysseus.*

Book 4: *Helen's Crucial Revelations at her Death.*

[A] **Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War by Nestor and Odysseus*** is a sequel to **Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*** in the preceding narrative poem: ***Following Homer's Odyssey.***

It unfolds imaginary dialogues among the characters, *Nestor*, *Odysseus*, and *Penelope* about the beginning, the first nine years, and the fall of Troy in the tenth last year of the enigmatic Trojan War. These are the very topics of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* of Homer, and the lost *Epic Cycles*, attributed to other later Greek poets.

In the present fiction, however, some episodes are imagined to be radically different from the traditional presumptions about the enigmatic story of the Trojan War:

(A-1) The characters *Odysseus* and *Penelope* sail to Pylos on the way of their life-long exile to visit the character *Nestor*. They discuss with their revered old sage *Nestor* about the enigmas of the Trojan War. Nestor tells them that he regarded the so-called “*Abduction of Helen by Paris*,” alleged by Agamemnon and Menelaus, was not a serious offence to the Achaeans; it was a private love affair which should be solved by Helen, Paris and Menelaus. He knew that the invasion of Troy, incited by the Atreidae, would cause horrible miseries and sacrifices of the Achaean soldiers as well as the innocent Trojan people in such a formidable and tragic war.

(A-2) But *Nestor* believed that the conquest of the rich and fertile Troad would be the most significant accomplishment for the whole Achaeans to establish a new glorious united empire. He hoped that the invasion of Troad under the pretext of the alleged *Abduction of Helen by Paris* might unify the divisive and competing Achaean chieftains against the new common foe, Troy, to prevent fatal conflicts among themselves.

(A-3) When Agamemnon and Menelaus came to plead Nestor for his crucial help, they falsely swore to Nestor that they had consulted with the Delphic oracle on the grave matter of the invasion of Troy. Falsely, they claimed that

the oracle revealed that Zeus wanted Agamemnon to lead the Achaean armies to subdue Troy and bring back Helen home.

(A-4) When Nestor asked them on concrete plans for the formidable War in Troad, Agamemnon told that he had visited Troad many times, and he knew the strength and weakness of the whole Troad better than he did those of the divisive Achaea. Nestor realized that Agamemnon had planned the conquest of Troad long before the incident of Paris and Helen. Hence Nestor decided to persuade other Achaean chieftains to join in the massive invasion and conquest of Troy in the hope of establishing a new empire of the united Achaeans.

(A-5) The first nine of the ten-year-long Trojan War was not a real war but easy brutal piracy of the defenseless, rich, peaceful towns along the long coasts of northern Troad by the greedy Achaean forces. Agamemnon proved himself to be an expert leader for the effective piracy from the sea. The Achaean hosts exulted in their upstart power, wealth, and luxury.

(A-6) Nestor proposed that they should settle in the fertile, rich northern Troad to build the foundation of a new Achaean empire. But Agamemnon strongly rejected the Nestor's prudent advice.

(A-7) After nine-year-long plunder from the sea, the massive Achaean fleets depleted the once precious resources of the northern Troad. Eventually in the tenth year, they moved south to sack and loot the robust and wealthy city of Troy, protected by its invincible fortresses.

(A-8) The remainder of the present fiction follows the story of *The Iliad* about the enigmatic Trojan War. Yet, some important episodes in this fictional work are invented to be radically different from the traditional stories:

(A-9) When the character *Penelope* asks how Hector met his death, the character *Nestor* recalls what he saw: Hector had been trapped in a deceptive ambush by Achilles. At this point, the character *Homer-Outis* tells the narrator *Odysseus* that the relevant episode in *The Iliad* (in Book 22) claims that Achilles killed Hector in a man-to-man duel with the help of Athena. But *Odysseus* confutes it as an absurd, stupid fib.

(A-10) When the narrator *Odysseus* relates to *Homer-Outis* how the protagonist Odysseus and his brave comrades sacked the invincible Troy disguised as the Trojan women released by the fleeing Achaeans, the surprised *Homer-Outis* asks about the alleged strategy of the colossal Wooden Horse. *Odysseus* denies it as an absurd, pointless hoax conjured up witless minstrels.

(A-11) When the character *Penelope* asks how King Priam met his death, *Nestor* recalls what he saw in the inner chamber of the Trojan palace: How the brave old king ended his own life, praying for the resurrection of the fallen Troy in dignity and noble magnanimity.

(A-12) Deeply moved, *Penelope* entreats *Odysseus* to visit the ruins of Troy with her as humble pilgrims for peace. *Nestor* repents his misdeeds to the Trojans, and requests *Odysseus* and *Penelope* to help the innocent Trojans restore Troy from the ruins. Then frail old *Nestor* collapses and gently passes away in peace.

[B] **Book 4: *Helen's Crucial Revelations at her Death*** unfolds imaginary episodes invented for this fictional narrative:

(B-1) Due to dangerous situations in Sparta, the characters *Odysseus* and *Penelope* are disguised as male vagrants, escorted by commandos led by *Pisistratus*, the brave youngest son of Nestor. They sail from Pylos and land near Helos in secret.

(B-2) When they crept into Sparta, they see the royal palace burning ablaze. Dire oppressed people's hatred of Menelaus erupts in seething violence. An armed man escapes from the blazing palace, but a mob of enraged people catches him.

(B-3) The commandos rescue the man; *Odysseus* recognizes that he is not Menelaus but his loyal comrade *Eteoneus*. He tells *Odysseus* that Menelaus, Orestes, and Megapenthes were found dead by mutual slaughter in the palace. When *Penelope* asks about *Helen*, *Eteoneus* says that *Helen* is hiding in the temple of Athena and he guides them to see *Helen*.

(B-4) In the throes of agonies in a crypt, the character *Helen* recognizes the disguised *Penelope* and *Odysseus*. Eventually, *Helen* decides to confide her private secrets to them. The gist of *Helen*'s revelations may be summarized as follows:

<B-4-a> Agamemnon knew a powerful Trojan noble, Antenor, who helped him meet King Priam, and obtained his consent to tour the coast towns of Troad for trading many times. Paris was assigned as the guide for the trading Mycenaean merchant fleets, led by Agamemnon.

<B-4-b> Eventually, Agamemnon persuaded Paris to visit Mycenae with him. He held pompous feasts and festivals in honour of the handsome prince Paris of Troy, inviting King Tyndareus, Queen Leda, their twin sons, King Icarius, and other Spartan nobles to Mycenae.

<B-4-c> Agamemnon lured Paris to meet a noble maiden of divine beauty in Helos on his way back to Troy. He guided Paris to sail to Helos, where Helen lived with Menelaus as a modest, noble couple. Agamemnon and Menelaus coerced Helen to seduce Paris as if she were a maiden sister-in-law of Menelaus, called "Adreste."

<B-4-d> Both Helen and Paris fell deeply in love at first sight. Agamemnon left, pretending he were returning to Mycenae. Then Menelaus abruptly left for Crete on the hoax excuse of his grandfather's funeral with his faked wife, entrusting Helen to entertain the new guest Paris.

<B-4-e> Eventually, Helen boarded with Paris on his single ship, sailing back to Troy. Helen confessed to Paris that she was not a pure maiden, called Adreste, but Helen, the dejected wife of witless Menelaus, and repented that she was trapped to commit the deception, plotted by Agamemnon and Menelaus for their political intrigues. With deep love and magnanimous sympathy, Paris embraced Helen as his beloved bride.

(B-5) *Helen* reminisces about her happy, blessed, new life with Paris and his gracious royal family in Troy before the Achaean invasion of Troad.

(B-6) *Helen* reveals how the sly powerful Trojan noble, Antenor, accused her and Paris as the evil cause for the Achaean invasion. Antenor, who had lured Agamemnon to invade Troy, betrayed King Priam: He proclaimed himself as the new king of the whole Troad and controlled its most parts except the capital city of Troy, soon after the Achaean invasion of Troad.

(B-7) *Helen* relates the momentous events of the Trojan War from the beginning to the downfall of Troy, as she experienced in the Trojan perspective.

(B-8) At this point, the priestess of Athena comes in the crypt, and informs that Hermione was stoned to death by the angry Spartan mobs; she urges *Helen* to flee from the temple right away to avoid her death by the crowds.

(B-9) *Odysseus* and *Penelope* are determined to protect *Helen* at any cost and urge her to escape with them escorted by the commandos. But *Helen* wants to meet her death in her homeland with integrity of her conscience .

(B-10) *Helen's* eager last wish is to be united with her beloved Paris in Troy, even as ashes. *Odysseus* and *Penelope* solemnly vow to *Helen* that they will adventure to the ruins of Troy as humble pilgrims for peace, and unite Helen with Paris, even as ashes in Troy.

(B-11) *Helen* confesses that she had entrusted her son by Paris, named Ganymede, to the priestess at Mount Ida just before the sack of Troy, obeying to the solemn command of the spirit of Paris in her dream.

(B-12) On her way back to Troy from Mt. Ida soon after the sack of Troy, *Helen* was rescued from angry Trojan mobs by Menelaus' troops searching for the missing Helen.

(B-13) After her confessions, suddenly *Helen* takes lethal poison to end her own life. She entrusts her old necklace to *Penelope* as a token for identification of her beloved son, Ganymede, whom she left in Mt. Ida, a long time ago.

(B-14) After the death of *Helen*, *Eteoneus* revealed the astounding secrets of Helen to the astonished Spartans; he moved the Spartans such that they acclaimed him as their new king.

(B-15) To fulfil their vow to *Helen*, *Odysseus* and *Penelope* sail to Troy in a Spartan ship; they carry with them the *Helen*'s ash to be united with that of Paris in love, and her necklace to find her son somewhere in the fallen Troy.

Book 3

*Reflections on the Trojan War
by Nestor and Odysseus*

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

‘O my Muse, Odysseus, you have revealed
vital crucial facts,’ says *Outis*,
‘enlightening me to see 3-3
beyond vague veils of confusing legends
from the by-gone eras. Please unfold
what happened next in your 3-6
adventurous life. How did Nestor receive
you?’ ‘When we reached the main harbour
of Pylos,’ says *Odysseus*, 3-9
‘we met with their powerful fleets, all ready
to sail out. When they found out who
we were, their young commander 3-12
Pisistratus rushed to our ship and spoke aloud:
“Welcome, King Odysseus! We are
about to sail in search of you. 3-15

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*Where have you been after you left Ithaca
a week ago?” “I am an exile,
Prince Pisistratus,” said I,* 3-18
*“wandering this wide world in leisure. But
why have you been looking for me?”
“My old father, King Nestor,* 3-21
*has been gravely ill; he wishes to see you
before he passes away. Let’s hurry
to see him in time.” Thus* 3-24
we all rushed to their palace. The first one
who greeted us with cheerful relief
was sweet Polycaste, holding 3-27
our lovely grandson, Arcesius. *“When did
you come here, my dear Polycaste?”
said Penelope. “Three days ago,* 3-30

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*to see my old gravely ill, dear father.
He is so eager to see you both!”*

The frail old sage greeted us, 3-33
resting on his bed: *“Welcome dear gracious
Penelope and Odysseus!”*

said Nestor, *“how happy* 3-36
*I am to see you both: you have appeared
like gods to bless me on my last day.*

Hear me: I wish to confide you 3-39
Certain vital things before I leave this world.”

*“Tell us all, wise Nestor; we shall
keep them,”* said I, *“deep in* 3-42
our heart.” “The future of whole Achaeans,”

said he, *“depends on you, Odysseus.”*

“What do you mean? What could I, 3-45

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a hapless exile, do for the Achaeans?”
said I, “*after such a terrible*
war afar in Troy?” “You are 3-48
the only hero who can rescue the Achaeans
from current disarrays: Orestes
murdering Neoptolemus ... ” 3-51
“*What?*” I interrupted in surprise, “*how did*
the wimp kill such a strong warrior,
and why?” “By cowardly stealth 3-54
to steal Hermione from Neoptolemus.”
“*Was Orestes punished for it?*”
asked I in indignation. 3-57
“*No! Old helpless Peleus died in agonies*
of sorrows,” said Nestor. “*What did*
Menelaus do about it?” 3-60

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

“He was glad to make his nephew a new son-in-law,” said frail sad Nestor.

“How outrageous! Don’t they 3-63

Fear gods’ retributions?” said I. *“No. They wield the strongest power; I fear that they will invade Pylos* 3-66

and other nearby weaker states sooner or later. I wish to entrust,”

said Nestor in a grave tone, 3-69

“Pylos to you, wise godlike Odysseus: You have been the only man I share with the very same one mind. 3-72

I plead you to promote my good people to prosper in righteous life at peace.”

“Gods forbid!” said I in shock, 3-75

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*“I have no ambition for power or fame.
I abdicated my throne. Never
shall I usurp your throne* 3-78
*from your sons!” “I lost my valiant, wise son,
Antilochus, in Troy; the remainder
seems to me too weak for* 3-81
*the difficult duty in steering Pylos.
Please settle in here, and take care
of them as their wise father.”* 3-84
*“The future belongs to the new generation,
Nestor,” said I, “we must trust them.
I’m nobody: an exile* 3-87
*doomed to wander in this wide world to death.
Yet, I am happy as my wise
faithful wife leads me to* 3-90

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*learn true ways of life in humble pilgrimages
for peace.” “How much I admire your
valiant, noble spirit,*

3-93

*virtuous Queen Penelope! You have
upheld the sacred honour and grace
of womanhood,” said Nestor,*

3-96

*“the true home for all men to nestle in
warm love. Whereto would you lead him
next?” “Our revered wise sage,*

3-99

*Nestor;” said Penelope in a warm voice,
“we came here to hear your sound, wise
advice. We plan to see*

3-102

*Helen back from Troy, reunited with
Menelaus; I wish to find out
from her the real reason*

3-105

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

*why she'd left her home in Helos, and strayed
in faraway Troy for twenty years
until the Achaeans* 3-108
*armies seized her back to home after long,
gory, and cruel war during which
many brave soldiers perished* 3-111
*and so much more innocent peoples suffered.
Helen is my dear good cousin.
We grew up together.* 3-114
*I know who she is; I cannot believe
that Helen would be such a wanton
woman as people blame her* 3-117
*as the vile cause of horrible Trojan War:
I must find out the truth from Helen."*
"In my belated hindsight," 3-120

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said Nestor, *“I also think that the real cause
of the War was neither Helen nor
Paris, but sly men’s evil* 3-123
ambitions for power, wealth, and vainglory.”
“Whom do you mean, Nestor?” asked I.
“First, the vile ambitious 3-126
*Atreidae; Next, myself, this foolish Nestor
who persuaded the Achaean
chieftains to invade Troy,”* 3-129
said Nestor in the throes of agonies. *“Do you
suspect that the cunning Atreidae
misled us to the gory* 3-132
war in Troy?” said I. *“Yes! I am so ashamed
to have been cheated by such evil
crooks. For what did we fight,* 3-135

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*and sack Troy? To give Helen back to dull
Menelaus? Why did he let her
go with Paris? Why should* 3-138
*his big brother get angry at the whole
Trojans, and incited us to destroy
great Troad? Ah, Agamemnon!* 3-141
*Your evil ambition was the fatal
cause of all our woes!” Thus lamented
Nestor with sincere regret* 3-144
*and anguish. “You knew that I was loath to
join with the Atreidae;” said I,
“but you persuaded me* 3-147
*that we must conquer Troad to build a great
nation of whole Achaeans. How did
the Atreidae win over you?”* 3-150

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

“One day they came to me in a sudden,”
said Nestor, *“and pleaded for urgent*
help: they noted that Helen 3-153
had been rudely abducted by an insolent
prince, Paris, visiting from Troy.
They wanted to gather mighty 3-156
armed forces, amassed from the whole Achaea
to punish Troad for Paris’s misdeed,
and to rescue Helen. 3-159
Then I told them that it was King Tyndareus
who should solve the problem of his
daughter: he could send his 3-162
envoys to Troy to find out what had really
happened to Helen; if she delighted
in her new marriage with 3-165

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*Paris in Troy, then let it be so; urge
the father of Paris, King Priam,
to send lavish bridal gifts* 3-168
*to Tyndareus who might use them to pay
back Menelaus so that he could
afford to marry a new* 3-171
*wife in peace. If Menelaus loved Helen
so much that he could not live with
anyone else, then he should* 3-174
*go to Troy himself to win over Helen
to come back to him. Or he might
fall in love with a noble* 3-177
*Trojan lady, perhaps, one of Priam's
graceful daughters and marry her.
It would bring joyous peace* 3-180

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*for all of us. Why should a poor old man
like me would meddle in young folks
heady ardent love affairs?”* 3-183

*“You were right, wise, prudent Nestor!”
said Penelope, “how did
Menelaus respond to you?”* 3-186

*“He said that the whole Achaeans should be
enraged to punish the Trojans
for the insult inflicted* 3-189

*by rash Paris. Cowardly Tyndareus
couldn't do anything about Paris's
misdeed; hence, he yielded to* 3-192

*Menelaus his throne of Sparta so that
he could raise and lead the Spartan
army to attack Troy.* 3-195

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*He claimed that he would build up a strong fleet
of sixty warships, each to be
manned with a hundred* 3-198
*soldiers. Then Agamemnon boasted that he had
already started to accumulate
a mightier fleet of one* 3-201
*hundred warships to be launched from Mycenae
to rule over the vast open seaways.
At this point, I realized* 3-204
*that the Atreidae were firmly resolved
to attack Troy. Thus, I suggested
that they should consult with* 3-207
*the Delphic divine oracle: Would it be
justified to attack Troy to
bring back Helen by force?* 3-210

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

*Wouldn't it be a grave dangerous overkill
about trifle private love affairs
among Menelaus, Helen,* 3-213
*and Paris? Why should the whole Achaeans
and Trojans make awful sacrifices
in cruel gory war that* 3-216
*would certainly bring horrible miseries
to innocent peoples of both
Achaea and Troad?"* 3-219
*"You made incisive inquiries," said I,
"to the Atreidae. How did they
respond to you?" "Cunning* 3-222
*Agamemnon avowed that they had already
consulted with the oracle: Pythia
told him that Zeus had* 3-225

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

*proclaimed him to be the commander-in-
chief to lead the whole Achaean
armed forces to attack,* 3-228
*and conquer Troy; She also advised him to win
over me so that I should persuade
other chieftains to join* 3-231
*in the great patriotic campaign
for the glory of the whole united
Achaeans. That was why* 3-234
*he came with Menelaus to plead me for
my help in recruiting others.*
Then Menelaus spoke in 3-237
*solemn tone: Pythia told him that Paris's
abduction of Helen was not
merely a trivial* 3-240

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*private love affairs but a plot of Zeus
who schemed a demise of rich Troad,
and let the Achaeans build* 3-243
*there a new greater nation in splendour.
At this point, I felt a mystic
force of fate urging me* 3-246
*to join in founding a new great nation.
I asked their concrete plans on how to
subdue the strong rich Troad,* 3-249
*and to build up a new united kingdom
for the whole Achaeans to prosper.
Agamemnon told me that* 3-252
*he had visited many times the entire territory
of Troad to inspect the strength
and weakness of that country:* 3-255

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*He said that Troad was a vast fertile land
with long coastlines, an ideal place
to build a new great nation:* 3-258

*He learned which Trojan towns to attack and
what to get from them better than
those of the Achaean.* 3-261

*At this point, I realized that Agamemnon
had planned for the attack of Troad
long before the alleged* 3-264

*abduction of Helen by Paris happened,”
said Nestor in a sombre mood. Then
Penelope asked: “Did he* 3-267

*tell you that he had invited Paris to
visit him in Mycenae?” “No!
He said that he had known* 3-270

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

*a powerful Trojan noble, Antenor,
who helped him meet with King Priam,
and obtained his consent* 3-273
*to tour Troad for friendly trades of their goods.
But he never told me that he knew
Paris, let alone invited him,”* 3-276
*said Nestor in perplexity. “Lately
I learned that Agamemnon had lured
Paris to visit him* 3-279
*in Mycenae;” said I, “he entertained
Paris with lavish festivals
and feasts, and persuaded* 3-282
*him to visit Helen and Menelaus
in Helos. During the Paris’s visit
as their honoured guest,* 3-285

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*Menelaus left abruptly, entrusting
Paris to be entertained by
by Helen alone; his sly* 3-288
*excuse was to attend his grandfather's
funeral in Crete. Don't you think
that the alleged abduction by* 3-291
*or elopement of Helen with Paris
was an absurd hoax pretext, faked
by the vile Atreidae* 3-294
to incite the Achaeans to attack Troad?"
*"Ah, yes! Now I see it clearly
in utter shame and dismay;"* 3-297
*groaned Nestor in dire agonies, "Agamemnon
asserted that most of the former
suitors of Helen had been* 3-300

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

*enraged by the Paris's misdeeds: Ajax,
Diomedes, Idomeneus, and many
other heroes pledged that* 3-303
*they would join with the Atreidae to bring
back Helen, if they could convince me—
this foolish Nestor—to be* 3-306
*their wise adviser for a war against Troy.
It was my fatal faults that I
was so blindly incited* 3-309
*by Agamemnon's urge to conquer the great
prosperous Troad by unifying
the whole Achaeans with* 3-312
*joint armies; I hoped that we would unify
our divisive provincial states
into a new glorious* 3-315

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

*empire like Egypt. That was my foolish
pompous illusion. Hence, I decided
to join in the fateful War.* 3-318

*Soon after I returned home from the long
awful war in Troy, I went to Delphi
to ask how to revive* 3-321

*Pylos from dire slumps. I also asked Pythia
whether Zeus had proclaimed through her
that Agamemnon should lead* 3-324

*the Achaeans to destroy Troy, and bring
Helen back home. Pythia spoke
in solemn tone: “Neither* 3-327

*Agamemnon nor Menelaus ever came
here to consult with me on such
a grave matter of war!” ”* 3-330

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“Ah, how the evil Atreidae had deceived us!”
I cried out, *“when they visited me*
with their over-powering 3-333
warships, I felt threatened rather than
persuaded to join with them; either
to attack Troy, or to be 3-336
attacked by the vile arrogant Atreidae.”
“I knew,” said Nestor, “that Agamemnon
was a very ambitious, 3-339
sly, and complex man. Unless we hold him
back properly, he could swallow up
any weak Achaean states 3-342
with his powerful warships. Hence, I raced
to build my strong new fleet of one
hundred warships to match 3-345

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*with those of Agamemnon's. I urged other
Achaean chieftains to build
their fleets for the united 3-348
patriotic campaign against Troy as well
as for their independence.*

*I tried hard to prevent 3-351
vile deadly internal conflicts within
the divided individual states
of Achaea, by making 3-354
the rich, prosperous Troad as our common
target to invade and conquer.*

*It was my goal—a vain 3-357
illusion—to subdue wealthy Troad, and build
a new great nation for the whole
Achaeans," said Nestor. 3-360*

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*“That was my hope, too;” said I, “for which I
strove hard, all in vain.” “I know it,”
said Nestor, “you were the very man,* 3-363
*I shared with that firm resolve through all dire
havoc of the long, cruel war.
In spite of all valour* 3-366
*of Achilles, Ajax, Diomedes, and
other outstanding Achaean heroes,
the invincible Troy stood* 3-369
*staunchly until you came up with your deft
brilliant strategies: Achaeans
owe their triumph to you,* 3-372
*resourceful Odysseus!” “No! Even if
it was true,” said I, “what was such
a tragic victory for?* 3-375

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*We burnt down Troy: no new great nation
for all Achaeans could rise from
its utter ruins. Instead,* 3-378

*the Trojan War was the fatal cause
of the demise of Achaea
as well as of Troad:* 3-381

*We witness it in pain, anguish, and despair.
Now I realize too late,” said I
in regret and remorse,* 3-384

*“how deadly we had been deceived by vile
Agamemnon: he seized the power
to command us, as if* 3-387

*it had been granted to him by Zeus!
How loyally I supported him
to lead the Achaeans* 3-390

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*armies; what dangers, hardships, and agonies
I had born up to win the War;
But all for what?" Thus I* 3-393
*groaned in utter agonies,' says Odysseus
with renewed pangs of bitter pains,
dire anguishes, and remorse.* 3-396
*'I am stunned to learn that how cunningly
Agamemnon had schemed the Trojan War,'
says Outis in stark shocks,* 3-399
*'by conjuring up his sly hoax of Paris's
abduction of Helen to incite
the Achaeans to attack Troad* 3-402
*under his command, falsely claimed as if
it were granted to him by Zeus!
The fell shameful slaughter* 3-405

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of Agamemnon by his wife, Clytemnestra
must be the gods' just punishment
for his horrible crimes.'

3-408

'No, she did not avenge his awful crimes
for us, at all; but she bred her
own brutal misdeeds

3-411

in endless vicious cycles of ghastly crimes
through the cursed seeds of Pelops.
Her disgraceful murder

3-414

of her husband confused the multitudes
to regard Agamemnon as if he
were the heroic victim,

3-417

obscuring his grave horrible misdeeds
inflicted on innocent peoples.
It is you, dear Outis,

3-420

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who could justly avenge them by revealing
what evil Agamemnon had done
in your songs for humanity 3-423
to come to reflect on,' says *Odysseus*
solemnly. 'I aver to fulfill
my vows to sing the truth: 3-426
Please keep on revealing to me what Nestor,
you, and your wife discussed next about
the perplexing enigmas 3-429
of the Trojan War,' says *Outis with genuine*
curiosity. 'Penelope
asked us how our invasion 3-432
of Troy started ten years after Helen
had left her home to Troy with Paris.
In dismay, Nestor spoke: 3-435

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*“When the Achaean armies gathered at Aulis
with over a thousand ships of war;
ambitious Agamemnon* 3-438
*overjoyed in his upstart power to rule.
But all our ships were hopelessly
stranded there for many days* 3-441
*due to lack of winds to empower our sails.
Then our seer Calchas revealed
that Agamemnon must* 3-444
*sacrifice his daughter Iphigeneia
to Artemis for the stranded
Achaean host to get* 3-447
*the necessary winds to invade Troy.
Agamemnon was in dire panic
that he may lose his insecure* 3-450

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*commandership over the Achaean host,
when we were stranded in Aulis:*

His mad ambition drove him 3-453
to sacrifice his innocent daughter.”

*“What grave crimes he committed to
his innocent daughter!”* 3-456

*cried out Penelope in indignation,
“How did Agamemnon persuade
his gentle lovely daughter* 3-459

*to come from her safe home in Mycenae
to his dangerous camp in Aulis?”*

“He lured her to Aulis,” 3-462

*said I, “in the pretense as if he would
marry her to Achilles there.”*

“What? How blatantly he 3-465

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*deceived his child into getting winds to sail
to Troy! How did the Achaean
host manage to invade* 3-468

*Troad, following such a gruesome atrocious start?”
“We got winds to sail, but soon we
faced much harder problems:”* 3-471

*said I, “how to feed our horde of a hundred
thousand soldiers. Our impulsive
actions without prudent* 3-474

*preparations for food supplies threatened us
to starve within a few weeks; either
we should sail back home in* 3-477

*utter shame, or plunder alien towns which
we could raid from our ships to feed us.
Agamemnon proved himself* 3-480

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*to be a skillful leader in piracy:
He knew which places to raid and what
to plunder along the rich 3-483
undefended peaceful coastlines of Troad
with the overpowering Achaean
forces. Agamemnon slyly 3-486
manipulated young, brave, and proud Achilles
to be the gang leader in raiding
over fifty Trojan towns: 3-489
We took by force their crops, herds, and treasures
from the helpless Trojans; we abducted
their women to serve us 3-492
as our slave-mistresses. Pompous Agamemnon
ruled us as if he were a god:
He always took lion's shares 3-495*

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*of the booty, hoarding vast amounts of grains,
livestock, precious treasures, and women,
all robbed from defenseless* 3-498
*towns in fertile Troad; he doled out the loots
to others as bribery rewards
at his pleasure: Our rash* 3-501
*insolent soldiers became degraded into
an enormous horde of reckless,
shameless, vile, and lustful* 3-504
*pirates.” Thus I confessed to Penelope
our misdeeds in shame and anguish.
“What happened to your goal* 3-507
*to build a great nation for the Achaeans
to live with the Trojans at peace
in the vast, rich land of Troad?”* 3-510

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asked Penelope in dismay. “*All gone
with winds of madness!*” sighed Nestor
in dire bitter anguishes, 3-513

“*I proposed that we should build a new city
on the northern coast of Troad,
and settle in it* 3-516

*as a foundation of our new nation.
But Agamemnon claimed that Zeus
had granted him to take* 3-519

*the abundant resources of Troad before
we might attempt to sack the strong
invincible fortress* 3-522

*of Troy in the tenth year of our campaign.
Meanwhile we should enjoy, he insisted,
our affluence and comfort* 3-525

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by easy plunders from the sea in safety.
Our crazy debased soldiers worshiped
Agamemnon as if he 3-528
were a Zeus and indulged in lazy luxury.
They did not want to settle in
and toil hard to build up 3-531
their new life in the fertile soil of Troad, at all.”
Penelope spoke in perplexity:
“I’m a paltry woman 3-534
who knows nothing about military affairs.
Yet, I wonder why the Trojans
put up so gutlessly 3-537
with the Achaeans’ vile plunders, cringing
cowardly from combats to defend
their innocent populace— 3-540

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*helpless women and their children. I heard
that King Priam was a wise, kind,
and fatherly monarch* 3-543
*who had many valiant, loyal warriors
such as Hector, Paris, and Aeneas.”*
“What you said are all true, 3-546
perceptive Queen Penelope!” said Nestor,
*“The main reason why the Trojans
refrained from battling* 3-549
*far away from their invincible fortress
of Troy, I surmise, was due to
the crucial fact that they* 3-552
*lacked the vital naval forces to defend
themselves from our strategic attacks
from the wide-open sea:* 3-555

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*We wiped out a few of their trading boats,
and seized a complete dominance
of the vital seaways.* 3-558

*Furthermore, none of their cities, except
Troy, had strong fortresses for their defense
from our unpredictable,* 3-561

*sudden, and strategic attacks along their long
unprotected coastlines. Trojan chieftains
fled to the inland, leaving* 3-564

*their properties for us to loot and stow them
in our ships; we hoarded them in hidden
small isles secluded near the coasts.* 3-567

*But our prolonged plunder of Troad for nine
long years had depleted its limited
resources. Only the city* 3-570

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*of Troy had kept its abundant wealth and
strong military power intact.*

To survive, we had to sack 3-573

Troy and take in its abundant vital resources.”

Thus expressed Nestor his hindsight.

“It seemed darkly enigmas 3-576

*to me,” said I to Nestor, “that the wise,
prudent King Priam had neglected*

to build up strong Trojan 3-579

*naval forces to battle against our armada
at sea before we could land on*

their soils. Paris must have 3-582

*warned him of the cunning Agamemnon’s plot
to invade Troad in the pretext*

of bringing Helen back home.” 3-585

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*“I have been genuinely perplexed by the enigma.
I suspect that there must have been
grave internal conflicts* 3-588
*among the powerful Trojan chiefs; perhaps
Antenor might have opposed to
building up a strong navy.* 3-591
*He and Agamemnon had kept secret contacts
before we invaded Troad.
But I know nothing of* 3-594
*what they were about,” said Nestor in a sombre
tone.’ Here pauses Odysseus his terse
recollection of what* 3-597
*happened before the real bloody war began
in front of Troy. ‘Your blunt, shocking
revelations gradually* 3-600

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awaken me to make sense the dark enigmas
in the story of the Trojan War,
left unsung by our great 3-603
bard Meles. Now I realize how subtly
he eluded from telling how it
had happened that Paris 3-606
sailed from Troy to visit Agamemnon, and
was persuaded by him to meet
Helen; how Paris and 3-609
Helen were trapped into the Atreidae's
cunning plot—the potent sly pretext
for the awful Trojan War. 3-612
Now it dawns clear to me why Meles had
avoided to tell the first nine years
of the Trojan campaign; 3-615

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I feel his dire distress as a conscientious
bard who sang of our glorious
heroic Achaean era 3-618

with great patriotic pride. Please resume
relating to me how the real
Trojan War began in 3-621

the tenth last year of your campaign,' *says Outis*.
'Agamemnon claimed that Troy would fall
as Zeus had schemed it. 3-624

At last, we moved towards Troy to attack it.
Most of our crucial supplies,
plundered from over fifty 3-627

Trojan towns in the past nine years were amassed
and stored in Tenedos, an island
near the seashore of Troy. 3-630

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While we were busy building our massive
camps on the beachhead of Troy, we
saw huge fires burning 3-633
in Tenedos. Our main food-supplies turned
into ashes. Many years later, I learned
that the Trojan seer 3-636
Helenus made such a devastating
naval ambush. In dire panic
Agamemnon suggested that 3-639
we should sail back home rather than starve
to death; but Achilles, Diomedes,
and I objected to his 3-642
inane cowardly plan. We attacked nearby
cities in the south, and plundered
them as much as we could. 3-645

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The first significant combat broke out a week
after we sacked Thebe and massacred
its brave king, Eetion, 3-648
the father-in-law of Hector, and all
his seven heroic sons who
fought bravely to defend 3-651
Thebe from our plunder. Hector, Paris,
and Aeneas led elite Trojan
army and attacked us 3-654
in surprise. Indignant Hector challenged
Achilles in fierce combats for
life or death. Suddenly 3-657
arrows shot from afar by Paris pierced
the front legs of Achilles's horse;
It fell to the ground, 3-660

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never to rise again to gallop. In panic,
Achilles got up and fled fast
for his dear life; Hector 3-663
rushed in to spear him. Then an arrow hit
Achilles's heel and he fell;
Achilles begged for his life, 3-666
crying aloud: "*Save me for ransom!*" Hector
withheld his spear-throwing and tried
to capture Achilles alive. 3-669
At this critical moment, great Ajax
stopped Hector just in time; Diomedes
and I joined with Ajax 3-672
in fending off Hector, Aeneas, and Paris.
We rescued the hapless Achilles
after fierce, terrifying fights. 3-675

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

At dusk we withdrew to our camps in pain,
horror, and disgrace of defeat.

Despite their much fewer 3-678

number, the brave Trojan army routed us,
killing and wounding numerous

Achaean warriors. 3-681

Arrogant Agamemnon chided and laughed at
Achilles for the unexpected
terrible, shameful defeat.’ 3-684

At this point, Outis interrupts Odysseus:

‘According to Meles’s *Iliad*,
the initial encounter 3-687

between the Trojan and the Achaean
armies was not an actual battle
but a strange truce: Scorned by 3-690

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Hector, Paris offered that he would pit
himself against Menelaus in a man
to man duel so that 3-693
they should fight it out for Helen and her
treasures; the victor in the duel
should take Helen. The Trojans 3-696
and the Achaeans should seal in blood their
binding pacts of peace and friendship.
Hector was over-joyed with 3-699
Paris's proposal, and he proclaimed it.
Both King Priam and Agamemnon
ratified the truce. 3-702
But the duel between Paris and Menelaus
became a fraud; Goddess Aphrodite
intervened, and snatched away 3-705

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Paris from the fight and put him in his
bedroom to make love with Helen.’

‘What an absurd farce,’ *says* 3-708

Odysseus, ‘Meles made up! The Trojan War
was a gory awful tragedy,
not a silly travesty. 3-711

I attest that there had never been such
an absurd duel between Paris
and Menelaus so that 3-714

they should fight it out for Helen and her
treasures as conjured up by your
fanciful bard Meles 3-717

to amuse the credulous multitudes,’
says Odysseus in stern indignation.

‘I’m so glad to hear what 3-720

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You've attested,' *says Outis*, 'Such a pompous
duel seemed to me too preposterous
after nine years of conflicts. 3-723

Please resume relating what happened after
your first experience of pain and shame
of defeat,' *says Outis*. 3-726

'Soon after the horrible confrontation,
an awful deadly pestilence
devastated our armies. 3-729

Countless soldiers and livestock died of dire
deadly plague in our camps. We burnt
the rotting corpses for many 3-732

weeks, but no end of the calamity was
in sight. To restore his hurt pride,
proud Achilles called for 3-735

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an urgent meeting for us to find out
the cause of the devastating
deadly plague. Our seer, 3-738
Calchas, revealed that Agamemnon must return
his Trojan slave-mistress, Chryseis,
to her father, a priest 3-741
of Apollo who inflicted the Achaeans
with the plague. Angry Agamemnon
conceded that he would give up 3-744
Chryseis for the sake of our armies,
although he ranked her higher than
his wife, Clytemnestra, 3-747
in build, mind, stature, and work, and he wished
to take her to his palace in
Mycenae to share his bed. 3-750

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Then, he demanded arrogantly that we
must fetch another girl as his prize
to replace Chryseis 3-753

right away; or he would seize one from us to
show off his haughty regal authority.

Indignant Achilles 3-756

defied the Agamemnon's demand, accusing
him as a shameless greedy mugger:

Whenever the Achaeans 3-759

plundered Trojan cities, he had to bear
the most burden and risk of fighting.

But the booty was distributed 3-762

such that Agamemnon always took the lion's
share, whereas Achilles got only
pittance of his loot. 3-765

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Then arrogant Agamemnon seized Briseis,
the prize mistress of Achilles,
so shamelessly to show off 3-768

his sovereign power, while he kept twenty more
Trojan concubines hidden in
his tents to glut his lust! 3-771

*groans Odysseus in renewed indignation
and anguishes.* ‘I am stunned to learn
that Agamemnon was such 3-774

a shameless, base, vile villain. How was he
as your chief military leader?’
asks Outis. ‘Agamemnon 3-777

was an anxious leader, often uncertain
of himself, drifting in his blind,
crazy thirsts for power. 3-780

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

His ambitions misled him to commit
cruel crimes to seize his power.

He was a sly pirate

3-783

but a weak, incompetent, insecure
coward in the actual combats.

Now you know how he seized

3-786

the leadership of Achaean armies
by vile deceptions,' *says Odysseus*
with dire regrets in dismay.

3-789

'You knew Achilles in person. Please tell
me what kind of man he was; why
did he join in the War?'

3-792

'Nestor persuaded his father, Peleus,
to send his son to fight in Troy,
and win the glorious

3-795

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fame of a patriotic hero who would
establish a new great nation
of the unified Achaeans. 3-798

Achilles was a tragic victim of his pride:
Wily Agamemnon manipulated him
to pillage Trojan cities, 3-801

and pampered him to delude as if he
were an invincible warrior.
For nine years, he won 3-804

easy victories over the helpless Trojans.
His pride begot his ambitions
for expanding power: 3-807

He dared to challenge the arrogant Agamemnon's
authority. The conflict between
arrogant old Agamemnon 3-810

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and proud, ambitious, young Achilles was
inevitable. While gravely insulted
Achilles withdrew from 3-813
fighting, the Trojan army led by Hector
brought horrible devastation
to the Achaean armies. 3-816
Witless cowardly Agamemnon admitted
belatedly how crucial Achilles
had been for him: he tried 3-819
to suborn Achilles with gifts of treasures,
his concubines, and marriage to
his daughter, but angry 3-822
Achilles rejected his offers and remained
indifferent to our crushing
defeat by the Trojans. 3-825

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

In panic Agamemnon suggested to run
back home. But Nestor, Diomedes
and I rallied our dejected 3-828
soldiers to keep on fighting. Belatedly,
I learned from Nestor on his last day
that Achilles had committed 3-831
a grave treason against us as you surmised.
Nestor told us: “*Achilles was*
the most fearsome fighter 3-834
to his foes, but he became a helpless
immature weakling in controlling
his overwhelming angers 3-837
of arrogant pride seething in his poor heart.”
“*I knew it,*” said I, “*but we must*
blame shameless arrogant 3-840

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*Agamemnon for his withdrawal from fighting
rather than accuse Achilles,
misjudging his refusal* 3-843
*as treason.” “True! The evil devil of all
our woes and miseries was Agamemnon!
Achilles had his right* 3-846
*to quit from fighting, and sail home freely
as he proclaimed what he would do.
But, instead, he remained idle* 3-849
*in his camp, scheming terrible doom to
the Achaean armies: wailing
like a brat, Achilles* 3-852
*pestered his overly caring goddess mother,
Thetis, to plead with mighty Zeus
to fulfill his vile, selfish,* 3-855

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*and cruel vainglory: let Zeus grant
the Trojans to pin the Achaeans
back to their ships, trap them* 3-858
*round the bay, and mow them down so that
Agamemnon could see how mad he was
to disgrace Achilles!”* 3-861
*“What? That was what had happened
to us! But how did you learn that,”*
asked I in shock, “it was 3-864
due to such a deadly ploy by Achilles?”
*“When his loyal friend, Patroclus
came to my tent to see* 3-867
*our grave dangers as Hector had stormed
our rampart and set fire on our ships,
while you and other chiefs* 3-870

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*lay helpless suffering from fresh wounds, I
pleaded him earnestly that his conscience
may move hard Achilles* 3-873

*to rescue us and our ships from fierce onslaughts
of the Trojan army. Then he told
me how Thetis entreated* 3-876

*Zeus on behalf of Achilles to let
him revenge for Agamemnon's
insult to him: Zeus* 3-879

*granted Thetis her plea to punish the Achaean
armies in favour of Achilles,
and thus, the Trojans.* 3-882

*Achilles exulted in our deadly defeat:
He told Patroclus that Agamemnon
should give way to him in* 3-885

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*shame soon. I entreated Patroclus to ask
Achilles to send him into
the battle and save us:* 3-888

*Let him lend his famous armour so that
the Trojans might take Patroclus
for Achilles; let the fresh* 3-891

*Myrmidon army follow Patroclus's
command; he could hold off the tired
Trojans from fierce attacks,* 3-894
rescue our desperate soldiers and ships from fire."

Thus spoke frail Nestor, trembling
in renewed excitement. 3-897

*"It was you, godlike Nestor," said I, "who
moved Patroclus to rescue us
and our ships at that crucial* 3-900

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*turning point! What brave Patroclus achieved
that day was sheer wondrous miracles:
Flying himself at the Trojans 3-903
with great splendid valour, Patroclus fought
dire disasters off our ships, just before
Hector could gut our hulls 3-906
with blazing fires, and tore away the vital
way of our returning home. Patroclus
routed the amazed Trojans 3-909
fleeing in fears back to their robust and safe fortress;
He slew Sarpedon, son of Zeus.
Crazed with hot zeal and pride 3-912
of his victory, Patroclus attacked
the fortress of Troy to sack it
by himself beyond his lot: 3-915*

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*He met a glorious death of brave tragic
hero at the hand of Hector.”*

“I am stunned to hear what 3-918

you have revealed in your grave dialogues,”
said Penelope, “on grim misdeeds

of evil Agamemnon 3-921

and bumptious fanatical Achilles.

Why did the Achaeans glorify

Achilles rather than 3-924

punish him for his blatant grave treason?

Why didn't they honour Patroclus,

instead of vile Achilles, 3-927

as the true patriotic hero who rescued

the Achaean soldiers from their

impending dire, grim death?” 3-930

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“Fame and fortunes are too fickle and strange,”
said Nestor, *“for us to know ‘whys.’*
At any rate, Achilles was 3-933
an obsessive maniac who attacked his foes
with ferocious convulsive power.
The death of Patroclus 3-936
caused a sudden change in the hot target
of his hatred from Agamemnon
to Hector. When he was doted 3-939
with a new invincible divine armour
by his mother, Achilles trampled
Trojan army, killing them 3-942
in mad convulsion like grim teeth of death.
After he succeeded in killing
Hector, the Achaean armies 3-945

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*worshiped Achilles as if he were a god;
He became their idol and seized
power as their tyrant.”* 3-948

*“I wish to know,” said Penelope, “how
Hector met his death. If you saw it,
please relate it to me* 3-951

as truly as you can remember it.”
*“I was lying in my tent to
recover from painful* 3-954

*wounds;” said I, “I didn’t witness how Hector
met his death at the grave battle
in defence of Trojans.* 3-957

*Did you see, Nestor, what happened
on that fateful day?” “Yes, I did:
I came to the front-line* 3-960

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*with our army led by Antilochus and
Thrasymedes. I was shocked
to hear what Achilles* 3-963
*said to Hector: “Come out, cowardly Hector!
Let’s fight man to man in a duel
to death; I will kill you* 3-966
*to avenge Patroclus. Look at my new
divine armours and arms; It is I,
Achilles alone, who will* 3-969
*exult the glory of sacking Troy all
by myself single-handed; none of
the Achaeans shall be* 3-972
*allowed to share such an honour with me.”’
Looking down from the tower high
above the Scaean Gates, Hector* 3-975

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replied: ““Poor bumptious Achilles! Are you not
the very Achaean who has served so
blindly evil Agamemnon 3-978
who pandered you to plunder defenceless
rich Troad as a shameless vile pirate
for the past nine years?”” ““I am not 3-981
an Achaean under Agamemnon’s command:
I am Achilles, the mighty king
of brave Myrmidons, far more 3-984
superior to Agamemnon!”” *shouted Achilles*
in rage, ““I prevail as the supreme
hero here to destroy 3-987
Troy by myself as Agamemnon, Diomedes,
Odysseus, and other Achaean chiefs
lie idle in their tents 3-990

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suffering from their painful wounds. If you
surrender Troy to me without fights,
then I will spare your city 3-993
from utter devastation, and sail back home
in glory taking your precious treasures.”
“Surrender to you? Mad 3-996
inane fool, Achilles!” *roared Hector in
indignation*, “even if some
gods may try to save you, 3-999
I will defeat you to death to defend
my dear Trojans: I have learned it
all too well to stand up 3-1002
bravely to uphold righteousness. None will
hurl me down to death, against my fate.
One’s fate is fixed the day 3-1005

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one is born: no one alive could ever cheat
his fate, neither brave man nor coward.

Let us meet at sunrise 3-1008

tomorrow for our duel man to man
to death as our fates determine.

For now, go back to your ships. 3-1011

I am resolute to burn down all your ships
so that none of you may return
home alive!”” *Thus spoke, Hector* 3-1014

disappeared from the rampart. Achilles
pretended as if he were abiding
to the pact of man to man 3-1017

duel with Hector the next day. He withdrew
his Myrmidons to the midfield
and set up his camp. But 3-1020

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*in the deadly night, he plotted lethal ambushes,
hidden around the fortresses of Troy
in sly, treacherous plots.* 3-1023

*Early in the next morning the Scaean Gates
opened wide: Hector came out first leading
his troop of about a hundred* 3-1026

*soldiers; they galloped fast to the middle
of the battlefield where Achilles
had set up a fake camp* 3-1029

*to mislead Hector. Suddenly Achilles
stormed to the wide-open Scaean Gates,
leading his stealthy ambushes* 3-1032

*of Myrmidons to sack Troy. Paris and
Aeneas strove inside to repulse
the Achilles's ambush;* 3-1035

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*Hector rushed back and fought off Achilles
to pull back his ambush. From outside
the open Scaean Gates,* 3-1038

*Hector commanded sternly: “Close the Gates!
Shut out enemies! Stay inside! I will
demolish treacherous* 3-1041

*vile Achilles from outside!”’ The Trojans
managed to close the Scaean Gates
just in time, saving Troy* 3-1044

*from Achilles’s treacherous lethal ambush.
But Hector and his small Trojan
troop were surrounded by huge* 3-1047

*multitudes of Achilles’s Myrmidons.
It was the most impressive and
thrilling experience for me* 3-1050

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*to watch how valiantly Hector and his
loyal soldiers fought in awesome
splendour of martial art:* 3-1053

*Wherever Hector launched fearsome attacks,
he mowed fleeing Myrmidons down
like a reaper of death.* 3-1056

*I saw Hector bringing down all five captains
of Achilles's army to death
in the awesome battles:* 3-1059

*Automedon, Menesthius, Pisander,
Alcimedon, and old fatherly
Phoenix. The fierce battles* 3-1062

*for life or death kept on without any break
from the sunrise to the sunset.*

But I did not see Achilles 3-1065

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*fighting against Hector face to face, at all.
I feared that Achilles might have
been already killed by* 3-1068
*Hector. Despite the overwhelming
disadvantage by a vast number,
Hector might burn down our ships* 3-1071
*as he vowed. Hence, I bade my army to rush
back to our ships, and warn Achaean
armies to get ready to fight.* 3-1074
*When we reached the midfield, Achilles's fast
chariot passed us in flashing speed.
I saw a shocking, gory sight;* 3-1077
*The fallen Hector's feet were lashed to his chariot,
leaving the head to drag in filthy dust!
I could not believe what* 3-1080

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*I saw in utter shocks! How did Achilles
manage to kill Hector eventually?*

Or was it my delusion?

3-1083

*When we came back safe to our home camp,
the entire Achaean armies
exulted in Hector's death.*

3-1086

*But I was utterly disgusted to see
how brutally Achilles and
his foul followers defiled*

3-1089

*the poor corpse of noble Hector; trampling,
stabbing, and mocking at it in
wild frenzy like mad brutes.*

3-1092

*Hector was our foremost formidable
fearsome foe. Yet, I always respected
his loyalty and love*

3-1095

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*of his people, his splendid courage, and
his noble spirit. Hence, I spoke:*

“Son of Peleus, Achilles! 3-1098

Hear what my heart urges to say: your triumph
over Hector is the best relief
for all Achaean troops. 3-1101

We congratulate and thank you and your brave
Myrmidons for your great achievements.
But why do you defile 3-1104

poor Hector's dead body? You may ransom it
for a large sum of gold, when King
Priam begs you; or you 3-1107

might leave it unburied to be devoured
by beasts and birds in the wild.
But it is improper 3-1110

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to maltreat any corpse, be it that of a great
hero or of a coward.””

Then angry Achilles shouted, 3-1113

threatening to strike me down in mad rage:

““You old fool, Nestor, how do you
dare to scold me as if 3-1116

I were your stupid child? You know how much
I hate Hector. My rage drives me
to hack his flesh away and gnaw 3-1119

it raw; such agonies horrible Hector
has inflicted on me. He wiped out
a half of my army, 3-1122

killing all my brave captains, including
my fatherly dear friend, Phoenix,
on this cursed day!”” *Deeply* 3-1125

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*dismayed in utter disgusts and despairs,
I came back to my tent. Alone I
wept bitterly, repenting* 3-1128
*my grave fatal follies in joining with
the Atreidae to conquer Troy.”*
At this point, sensitive 3-1131
Penelope broke down sobbing in pity.’
Here pauses Odysseus in somber mood.
‘I am deeply dismayed,’ 3-1134
*says Outis, ‘to learn somehow Achilles killed
Hector by treachery as Nestor
alluded to: not in a fair* 3-1137
*heroic man to man duel to the death
between Achilles and Hector
as sung in the Iliad* 3-1140

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by our bard Meles.’ ‘How did Meles make up
such a duel?’ *asks Odysseus*
in stern indignation. 3-1143

‘According to the episode of Hector’s death
in *the Iliad*, Achilles managed
to defeat brave Hector 3-1146

by Goddess Athena’s deception of Hector.’
‘What? Why and how did Athena
commit such a betrayal 3-1149

for Achilles to kill Hector by stealth?’
Odysseus demands Outis to explain.

‘Somehow, Hector stood alone 3-1152
in front of the closed Scaean Gates after
his Trojan armies escaped safe
inside. Despite earnest 3-1155

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pleas of his loving parents to come in,
Hector refused to obey. But when
Achilles came with his troops, 3-1158
Hector ran away three times around the Trojan
fortress, fleeing from chasing Achilles.
Then Athena, disguised 3-1161
as Hector's loyal brother, Deiphobus,
persuaded Hector to encounter
Achilles for man to man 3-1164
duel. First, Achilles hurled his mighty spear,
but Hector deftly avoided it;
It struck the ground firmly. 3-1167
Then, Hector thrust his stalwart spear; it struck
Achilles's shield at the center,
but the hit did not harm 3-1170

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Achilles. So, Hector shouted out to Deiphobus,
and called for a new massive lance.
But the queer phantom of 3-1173
Deiphobus vanished. Athena snatched up
Achilles's spear from the ground, and
passed the crucial weapon 3-1176
back to Achilles. Hector drew out his sword,
and swooped to Achilles. When he
approached close by, Achilles 3-1179
hurled his lethal spear and managed to kill
Hector, at last,' *says Outis in*
sombre tone. 'I am perplexed 3-1182
and utterly dismayed,' *says Odysseus*,
'why Meles dared to portray the wise
goddess, Athena, as if 3-1185

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she were a senseless silly flirt who deluded
Hector in such a sham duel,
pandering Achilles. 3-1188

To the best of my knowledge, nobody witnessed
that Achilles had met with Hector
face to face and killed him 3-1191

in a man to man duel, never! Hence,
he and his soldiers, I surmise,
may have murdered Hector 3-1194

by stealthy, cowardly, evil treachery,
rather than by Athena. It was
impossible for Meles 3-1197

to know what had happened in reality!’
says Odysseus in indignation.

‘I agree with you. But Meles 3-1200

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claimed that he sang in his *Iliad* what
he had heard from his muse whom he
presumed to know every 3-1203
thing in the world,' says *Outis* wavering.
'In the pretense of faked muses, sly
Meles had mis-portrayed 3-1206
not only Hector as if he were a stupid
foolish coward, and Achilles
as if he were a mad 3-1209
cruel brute, but also Athena as if
the just goddess of intelligence
were a witless cheater! 3-1212
How could you trust and admire such absurd
blasphemous fibs, prattled by Meles
as if he were above gods? 3-1215

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Let your honest conscience be your only true
muse, Outis!’ *says Odysseus*
in stern solemnity. 3-1218

‘Yes, my Muse Odysseus! I shall obey
your decree of truthful conscience
with all my heart and soul. 3-1221

Please resume revealing to me what had
happened as facts so that
I may preserve truths in songs 3-1224

for generations of humanity to come.’
Odysseus resumes recollecting:

‘Penelope spoke in tears: 3-1227

“I respect Hector as the very paragon
of human nobility, upright
integrity, and heroism; 3-1230

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*If he was fated to die for his beloved
people, so be it: he will live
forever in the hearts* 3-1233
of peoples as our beloved true hero.
*What disgusts me aghast is how
could Achilles carry out* 3-1236
*such vicious crimes of morbid sacrilege
of the dead body of noble Hector.”*
“We could not stop Achilles,” 3-1239
*said I in shame: “Huge gangs of his fanatic
worshipers exalted him as the upstart,
cruel, absolute tyrant* 3-1242
*of the Achaean armies.” “What did his mother,
Thetis, do about Achilles’s vile
morbid misdeed? Didn’t she* 3-1245

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*mind it, at all, conniving her spoiled brat
to commit such a disgusting
sacrilege? How about other* 3-1248
*gods in high Olympus? Did they also condone
Achilles to keep on his awful
sacrilege?” said she in* 3-1251
*stern indignation. “A seer divined that
Apollo was enraged at savage
Achilles,” said Nestor,* 3-1254
*“and threatened to punish him, but other
gods compelled Achilles to yield
Hector’s body to Priam* 3-1257
*for ransom. At any rate, intrepid old
King Priam, bent down with awful
sorrows, horrible agonies,* 3-1260

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*and heavy burdens of old age, came himself
all alone to the tent of savage
Achilles at deadly night,* 3-1263
*and begged for Hector's body with a huge ransom.
His fatherly plea melted Achilles's
mad heart to yield Hector's* 3-1266
*battered corpse to him. Through dead night, Priam
carried his beloved son's body back
to Troy for a proper burial* 3-1269
*of noble Hector." At this point, old frail
Nestor broke down in emotions:
"The mysterious vision* 3-1272
*of King Priam, carrying Hector's body,
released from cruel Achilles—
his deep fatherly love moved* 3-1275

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*even that mad brute—always makes me tremble
in awe with heartfelt pity, and
breathtaking sublimity,”* 3-1278

whispered Nestor. “*Brave King Priam’s venture
to the Achilles’s tent was far
more dangerous,”* said I, 3-1281

*“than going down to the dark deadly Hades
to bring back his beloved Hector
from the prison of death.* 3-1284

*I revere King Priam for his noble
courage and deep fatherly love.”*

“I wish to visit Troy 3-1287

*with you, Odysseus, as humble pilgrims,
to pay our sincere heartfelt homage
to these noble, virtuous* 3-1290

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human beings,” said Penelope shedding warm tears with heartfelt sympathy.

“How much I wish to join 3-1293

with you in your brave, noble pilgrimage to Troy; yet sooner I will meet

King Priam in the Hades, 3-1296

and beg him for his forgiveness of our vile crimes,” said Nestor in trembling voice.

“What happened after Hector’s 3-1299

death? Did the Trojans become utterly panic in helpless disarrays?”

asked Penelope. “No, 3-1302

not at all;” said I, *“they were adamantly unified by the wise rule of King Priam who got aids from his allies:* 3-1305

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*The powerful Amazon army led
by Penthesileia, the gallant
female warrior, came* 3-1308
*and crushed the brash Achaeans in surprise.
After harsh, bitter, bloody combats,
Achilles killed the brave* 3-1311
*Penthesileia and routed the Amazons.
Then Memnon came from Aethiop,
leading his great army.”* 3-1314
*“Ah that awful battle which robbed me of
my beloved son!” interrupted Nestor,
“Achilles incited him* 3-1317
*to fight Memnon, the son of goddess Eos,
a far stronger man than my brave son:
Antilochus inflicted* 3-1320

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*painful wounds in Memnon's right arm but he
managed to plunge his sharp spear deep
into the gallant heart* 3-1323

*of my son. Achilles chased wounded Memnon,
and killed him in easy fights and boasted
how readily he avenged* 3-1326

*Antilochus's death—useless, vain avenge
as it could not bring my son back
to life!"* Old frail Nestor 3-1329

moaned heartbroken in sorrows. Tenderly
holding his worn trembling hands,
Penelope comforted 3-1332

the grieving father: "*Brave Antilochus
will live ever as our beloved
patriotic hero*" 3-1335

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*in our hearts. Didn't Achilles also die soon
after? How did he meet his death?"*

"In horrible throes of 3-1338

pains and agonies, Achilles died," said I,

*"His ignominious death perplexed
us with darkly intrigues:* 3-1341

*Ajax came to my tent in a deep night,
and urged me that we should rescue
Achilles deadly wounded* 3-1344

*outside the Trojan fortress. Guided by his
Myrmidons aide, Ajax, Diomedes,
and I rushed to the site* 3-1347

*to save Achilles in the darkness of the night.
At last, we found Achilles lying
unconscious in a strange* 3-1350

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*Trojan temple of Apollo, secluded
in lush, thick forests which extended
eastwards opposite to* 3-1353

*the Scaean Gates. We were shocked to see him
bare naked: his clothes, armours, and arms
lay untouched beside him.* 3-1356

*His body looked intact: no piercing arrows
or bleeding wounds, and yet he was
gravely ill. Great Ajax held* 3-1359

*him like a child on his horseback. We made
long tortuous detours on our way
back to our camps to avoid* 3-1362

*any encounter with the Trojans as it dawned.
After careful examinations
of the sick man, our healer* 3-1365

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

*Machaon diagnosed that Achilles had
been fatally poisoned: he must
have taken the poison* 3-1368
*himself, perhaps mistaking it as if
it were a magic elixir
of lovemaking. We summoned* 3-1371
*Briseis to reveal what she had known
about Achilles's secret love affairs.
She said that Achilles* 3-1374
*had recently been infatuated with
Polyxena, the youngest daughter
of Priam; he boasted that* 3-1377
*he would persuade Priam and Hecuba
to yield Polyxena to him so that
he would take her as his bride* 3-1380

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*to Phthia in peace. For many nights he
deserted his bed in his tent, but she
knew nothing of his whereabouts.* 3-1383

*For twenty days and nights, Achilles screamed
in terrible torments of pains:*

He knew that dire slow death 3-1386

*lingered torturing him; his body swelled like
a fierce python with grim blisters.*

He gave up himself in 3-1389

*desperate despairs; he begged us to end
his suffering by killing him*

with his spear that had 3-1392

*killed so many lives. He offered to reward
his armours and arms for it; but*

no one wanted to do it. 3-1395

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*Achilles taunted his mother: ““Why did you
bear me to suffer dire miseries,
and die so young in shame?* 3-1398

*How I wish that Hector had killed me in the fight!
Why don’t you kill me to stop my pangs
of pains and throes of agonies,* 3-1401

*my cruel mother?”” At last, trembling
in anguish, Briseis took his spear,
and plunged it right into* 3-1404

*Achilles’s heart to end his miseries; then
she killed herself with heroic
composure, stunning us* 3-1407

*to tremble in awe and pity,” said I.’
‘Ah, poor Achilles!’ interrupts
Outis in utter dismay,* 3-1410

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‘I expected that his life would have ended in
heroic combats as Meles
alluded to in *the Iliad*:3-1413

Paris would kill him with Apollo’s help.
I am deeply dismayed to learn
that our famous hero3-1416

so celebrated in *the Iliad* had met
such an ignominious dire death
like a shameless vile brat.3-1419

In a stunning contrast, his Trojan slave,
blithe Briseis, acted so bravely
in painful, heartbreaking3-1422

mercy for him, and met her death in
the most honourable spirit
that moves me to exalt,’3-1425

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says Outis with unspeakable emotions.

‘Achilles seems to be the most

enigmatic man who has

3-1428

eluded my wit and sense,’ *says Odysseus*

in a reflective voice. ‘That might be

the very reason why Meles

3-1431

had chosen Achilles as the focal,
main character in *the Iliad*.

How did the shocking death

3-1434

of Achilles affect the Achaean host?’

asks Outis. ‘Grief, uncertain angst

and perplexity seized us,

3-1437

except arrogant Agamemnon who openly
revelled in the demise of Achilles

as he regained his lost

3-1440

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

leadership of the Achaean armies,’
says Odysseus in a sombre mood.

‘Did Agamemnon become
3-1443
a better man,’ *asks Outis*, ‘after such
a devastating quarrel with Achilles?’

‘No, he learned nothing from it.
3-1446

He became a much worse tyrant,’ *laments*
Odysseus, ‘claiming that he had regal
powers to give the Achilles’s
3-1449

armours to whomever he deemed to be
the next greatest Achaean hero;
He refused to make any
3-1452

consultation with our chieftains. Then he
proclaimed me as the recipient
of his conceited favour.
3-1455

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But his cursed award of Achilles's armours
to me caused an awful tragedy
to proud Ajax; he was 3-1458
so much offended that, in delusion,
Ajax killed livestock as if they
were the Atreidae and I; 3-1461
When he realized what he'd done in madness,
he killed himself in shame and regret.
So unexpectedly, we lost 3-1464
our two most powerful warriors in a month.
The Trojans attained upper hand,
despite their fewer 3-1467
number: led by Paris, they confined us
near beachfronts, threatening to burn
our ships and wipe us out. 3-1470

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When Peleus sent Neoptolemus to succeed
Achilles, I gave the Achilles's
armours to his successor. 3-1473

We brought back Philoctetes from Lemnos
to outwit Paris in the subtle
warfare of archery.' 3-1476

'How did Paris meet the end of his life?'
asks Outis with great curiosity.

'Although I didn't witness 3-1479
his death myself, I heard from my comrades
that Paris had shot an arrow that
pierced Agamemnon's right arm. 3-1482

He pursued his fleeing worst foe without
noticing Philoctetes who shot
Paris down with his lethal 3-1485

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arrows. Hence, I surmise that Paris met
his death in a heroic combat,’
says Odysseus with respect. 3-1488

‘Please expound to me how you accomplished
the formidable task of sacking
the invincible Troy,’ 3-1491
entreats Outis with heartfelt enthusiasm.

‘We faced desperate situations:
Our supplies of grains and 3-1494
livestock, plundered from many Trojan cities,
dwindled rapidly to run out.

Many wounded, sick, and weary 3-1497
soldiers were dying in our miserable
camp of horrors. To avoid grim
death of starvation, we 3-1500

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had to sack Troy, and plunder their precious stores
of foods,' says *Odysseus shuddering*
in renewed terrible agonies. 3-1503

'How did Agamemnon take such dire crises?'
'He decided to flee; he ordered
the Achaean armies 3-1506

to prepare for the evacuation of our camps:
Stow all our supplies in our ships,
and get ready to sail home 3-1509

in utter shameful defeat. Even Nestor
could not give him any useful counsel.
Amid such dire disorders 3-1512

and chaotic confusions, I confided
my strategies to Diomedes
and Idomeneus: 3-1515

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Let the entire Achaean host evacuate
from the beach fronts of Troy, burning
the remains of our camps, 3-1518
as if we were leaving for our homelands
for good as Agamemnon decided.
But some of us would hide 3-1521
our ships in Tenedos, ready to come back
to attack and sack Troy, whenever
I could send them my signal 3-1524
from inside Troy to be seen in Tenedos.
Diomedes and Idomeneus
were eager to join with me 3-1527
in such a risky, bold, brave plan with sincere
enthusiasm. We summoned an urgent
meeting of our chieftains. 3-1530

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

Diomedes spoke first: “*My dear Achaeans,*
hear what my heart urges me to say;
Agamemnon has decided 3-1533
to go back to Mycenae, forsaking
his vow to sack Troy. He is free
to flee in shameful defeat. 3-1536
But he has no right to order us to flee;
He gave up his poor leadership
by forsaking his vow. 3-1539
He had implored us to join with him for
the sake of his vow to sack Troy.
I swear to join with Odysseus 3-1542
and Idomeneus to accomplish our lofty
patriotic goal to build up
a new great Achaean 3-1545

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

*nation here in place of Troad. You are free
to flee to your homelands in defeat,
or join with us to sack Troy!”* 3-1548

His sincere, bold, and wise speech moved us all.
Even Menelaus decided to join
with us,’ *says Odysseus.* 3-1551

‘It was a righteous revolution against
the inane cowardly Agamemnon.
But how did you manage 3-1554

to sack Troy, despite your dire situation?’
asks Outis. ‘First, we had set free
our captured Trojan women 3-1557

so that they could return to their homes, and
spread the news that the Achaean host
would withdraw soon due to 3-1560

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

our dire situation. Then I persuaded
Diomedes, Idomeneus, and
Neoptolemus to join 3-1563
with me to creep into Troy with their chosen
elite brave loyal commandos,
disguised as Trojan women. 3-1566
When the Achaean host sailed away to hide
in Tenedos, we got into Troy
as if we were the poor 3-1569
captured Trojan women, just released by
the Achaeans before they fled
from Troy. Ten days after 3-1572
the Achaean's withdrawal, King Priam
proclaimed that the awful long War
had ended, at last. They exulted 3-1575

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peace with splendid festivities and feasts.
When the Trojans were revelling,
our brave commandos crept up 3-1578
the tower of Scaean Gates and ambushed
all guards in a deadly night.
Then we disguised ourselves 3-1581
as Trojan soldiers and sent signal lights
to the waiting Achaean host,
hidden in Tenedos. 3-1584
When they rushed back to attack, we opened wide
the invincible gates for them!’
Here pauses Odysseus, musing 3-1587
on that most crucial moment in his life.
‘O how simple and prudent was
your strategy, godlike 3-1590

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

Odysseus,' *exclaims Outis elated with amazement*, 'and yet so decisive and utterly effective!' 3-1593

'It was a perilous bold venture we dared to undertake; soon large Trojan troops surrounded us, 3-1596

trapped in the Scaean Tower and attacked us, killing many of our brave commandos.

At this critical moment 3-1599

of our grave danger, the brave loyal comrade of Diomedes, Sthenelus, appeared like a god with 3-1602

his brave Argolid warriors and rescued us just in time. When I rejoined with my Ithacan troops, 3-1605

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

I learned awful facts in utter dismay:
Agamemnon changed his mind; he
joined in our attack of Troy 3-1608
rather than fleeing back to Mycenae.
When he entered Troy with his troops,
he incited them to burn down 3-1611
the entire splendid great city of Troy
into ruins of ashes. In frenzy,
other Achaeans also 3-1614
followed them in setting fires blindly
during the deadly night of chaos.
Hence, vile Agamemnon ruined 3-1617
our goal of founding a new great nation
in place of Troy! Enraged Diomedes
urged that Agamemnon should 3-1620

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

be put on trial for his grave treason.
But Nestor persuaded us to
forgive him with mercy. 3-1623

The tragedy of our meaningless vain
victory over Troy after such gory
and cruel war sank deep 3-1626

in our hearts: Our goal for a new great nation
of the unified Achaeans dissolved
as inane illusions. 3-1629

As the war was over, the Achaean host
was disbanded after dividing
up the Trojan wealth 3-1632

and the helpless noble Trojan women,
seized as our slaves. Each one of us
must struggle how to sail 3-1635

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

back home safe across uncertain seas, and how
to resettle properly in own home
after such long, rash, senseless 3-1638
neglects. Dire anxieties and deep remorse
devoured my listless sad heart,
although none could suspect 3-1641
at that time that Agamemnon would be butchered
to death by his wife when he came
back his home safe at last, 3-1644
or that this foolish Odysseus had to
suffer ten more years, struggling
to reach his long-missed home, 3-1647
and encounter the horde of insolent
suitors of his wife, devouring
his estates and threatening 3-1650

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

to seize his throne,' says *Odysseus in agony*.
A deep silence prevails while they
wander in their private thoughts. 3-1653

Then, Outis breaks the silence: 'I do hear
the honest voice of your lofty conscience,
my revered forefather 3-1656

Odysseus! I will sing of the stark truth:
The tragedy of the vain victory
of the pointless Trojan War— 3-1659

the cause for the awful demise of the Achaeans
as well as of the Trojans. As for
your brilliant military 3-1662

strategy that sacked Troy, minstrels of by-gone
eras had sung that you had devised
a giant wooden horse 3-1665

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

to creep into Troy, hiding your brave warriors
in its belly rather than disguised
them as Trojan women.’ 3-1668

‘What? I know nothing of such a wooden
horse;’ *says Odysseus quite amused,*
‘Tell me how it would have 3-1671

worked out to sack the invincible fortress
of Troy.’ ‘According to them, Epeus
built a giant wooden horse 3-1674

to carry out your strategy in deceiving
the Trojans.’ ‘How fascinating!’
says Odysseus, ‘but how 3-1677

would it work in the real, harsh, cruel war?’
‘Bold, brave Achaean heroes such
as Diomedes, Menelaus, 3-1680

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Neoptolemus, and Anticlus, all led
by you, were hidden inside
its huge hollow belly 3-1683
for a crucial ambush.’ ‘But tell me, my dear
fanciful daydreamer, how could
such a huge wooden horse 3-1686
manage to enter inside the fortress
of Troy? Did it fly over the high
walls, somehow by magic?’ 3-1689
asks Odysseus, amused. ‘The ancient fables
claimed,’ *says Outis in embarrassment,*
‘that the Trojans brought in 3-1692
the huge wooden horse inside their city.
They underpinned the wooden horse
with rollers, pushed its legs, 3-1695

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and pulled ropes put around its colossal neck.
They breached their invincible fortress
to admit the wooden horse, 3-1698
pregnant with the deadly Achaean heroes,
hiding inside its giant belly
for the fatal ambush.’ 3-1701
‘I wonder how such absurd delusions
of the incredible minstrels could
come down to mislead you! 3-1704
Did they say why the Trojans had carried
out such suicidal mad follies
to bring the alleged huge 3-1707
wooden horse inside their city?’ ‘They claimed
that the Trojans were deceived by
the sly ruse of Sinon: 3-1710

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He persuaded the Trojans to believe
that the Achaeans had set up
the colossal wooden horse 3-1713
as a votive to offended Athena.
If anyone dishonoured the holy
gift to the mighty goddess, 3-1716
then not only for that one but also the whole
Troy would be destroyed by angry
Athena. But if they would 3-1719
bring in the sacred wooden horse, although
it was too enormous for their gates
to pass through, and mount it 3-1722
at the heart of Troy with reverence, then
Troy would prosper forever with
the divine protection 3-1725

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

by Athena,’ says *Outis* in defence.
‘Did sham minstrels dare to portray
that the Trojans were so 3-1728
stupid and foolish to believe such blatant
lies of so-called *Sinon*? They are
vile ruses conjured up by 3-1731
minstrels, far worse than that of their character
Sinon,’ says *Odysseus* in stern
indignation. ‘They claimed 3-1734
that the wise Trojan priest Laocoon cried out:
“O my poor people of Troy, what
madness has overcome over you? 3-1737
*How can you believe that our cunning foes
have really quitted the long, cruel war
and gone back to Argos?* 3-1740

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*Look at this terrifying wooden horse:
A gift from the Achaeans, not
a fatal ruse? Is that* 3-1743
*the way how sly Odysseus used to work
as you have known him? Achaean
soldiers must be hiding* 3-1746
*inside its huge hollow belly.” Bravely
he rifled his spear against the colossal
horse’s flank. It struck there hard* 3-1749
*trembling; the hull reverberated groaning
at the blow. Suddenly, huge twine
snakes loomed from the sea and attacked* 3-1752
*Laocoon; the giant snakes suffocated his two
helpless boys and killed the wise priest.
Then, the Trojans shouted in* 3-1755

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dreadful panic: “*The sacred wooden horse
must be hauled to its proper home
at the temple inside* 3-1758
*our city; we must offer it as votive
to Athena at the citadel!”*

That is what I heard from 3-1761
minstrels of our by-gone era,’ *says Outis.*
‘How slyly they had misled you!’
says Odysseus in stern 3-1764
*mood, ‘did Meles claim such false absurd things
in his Iliad?’ ‘No! He did not
commit such forgeries;* 3-1767
His *Iliad* ends with the moving lament
of Helen at the funeral
of brave noble Hector. 3-1770

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

It was I who included their hokey glib fibs
of the fabulous wooden horse
in my *Odyssey*. Please 3-1773
forgive me for the awful grave blunder,
says Outis in sincere remorse.
But indignant Odysseus 3-1776
speaks in the stern, resolute mood: ‘I demand
you to rectify the grave absurd
fabrications as they 3-1779
misrepresent my very integrity.
The alleged giant wooden horse
could never be built at all. 3-1782
We were on the verge of dire starvation
and miserable death by plagues.
Even if somehow, we could 3-1785

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

have built such a useless pompous monster,
I would never allow myself
or my comrades-in-arms 3-1788
to hide inside its belly as you alleged
me to be such a stupid fool;
Wouldn't it be utterly 3-1791
inane mad folly of absurd suicide?
The Trojans would have roasted us
in hellish fires. I cannot 3-1794
endure such a ridiculous shame of stupidity.
As for the cunning fibs of Sinon
and of Laocoon, the minstrels 3-1797
who babbled them must be much more evil
criminals than their faked character,
“*Sinon,* ” and they should be 3-1800

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

devoured by the monstrous sea-snakes they put
to the throat of the wise honest
Trojan priest Laocoon, if he 3-1803
ever existed in reality. If it were
the will of gods to destroy Troy,
then they could have done it 3-1806
so quickly by an earthquake in minutes!
Now, tell me, Outis, the reason
why arrogant minstrels 3-1809
put to the mouth of their puppet Sinon,
claiming that the wooden horse was
a sacred votive offered 3-1812
to Athena to appease her anger
at the Achaean's offence to her.'
'According to what I've heard, 3-1815

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they claimed that Odysseus and Diomedes
dared to raid the shrine of Athena
on the high citadel 3-1818
of Troy in the deadly night; they killed the guards,
and ripped away her sacred statue,
the very Palladium, 3-1821
desecrating with their bloody hands the virginal
chaplets of Athena. Calchas
divined that Athena was 3-1824
furious at the Achaeans for the offence.
Hence, he ordered them to build the giant
wooden horse as a votive, 3-1827
dedicated to Athena in reparation
for the Palladium stolen,
to appease the offended 3-1830

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

Athena, and expiate the awful crime,’
says Outis, trembling in fears.

‘Ah, cursed gangs of evil
abominable babblers of vile shams!
How I wish to exterminate
such pernicious minstrels!’
cries out Odysseus in indignation.

‘I swear to the gods on my life,’
says Outis, ‘that I will
rectify the wrong insidious offences
of the minstrels: I did not know
the concrete facts how you
had managed to destroy the invincible Troy.’

‘Have you ever alluded in
your *Odyssey* that Odysseus

3-1833
3-1836
3-1839
3-1842
3-1845

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War*

and Diomedes desecrated with their bloody
hands the virginal chaplets of
Athena, and stole away 3-1848
her sacred statue, the Palladium, from
the citadel of Troy?’ ‘No! Never
did I say such a thing,’ 3-1851
says Outis, trembling. ‘Why did you not
mention it in your *Odyssey*?’
asks Odysseus in a stern voice. 3-1854
‘The tale was too preposterous, mad, and
vicious for me to believe it;
It deeply hurt my pride 3-1857
as an offspring of the wise, brave, upright
Odysseus: he and Diomedes were
the two most outstanding 3-1860

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

Achaean protected and beloved by Athena.
Why would they dare to desecrate
their very divine protector? 3-1863

As I've learned the truth from you, my godlike
Odysseus, I feel so relieved now,
and am indignant at 3-1866

those despicable reckless minstrels who
prattled such vicious glib fibs to
pander their base audiences. 3-1869

I vow to bring forth the truth to the light.
Please resume relating to me
how the Achaean troops 3-1872

sacked Troy after they had received your crucial
signal in Tenedos,' says *Outis*
with sincere repentance. 3-1875

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

‘During our visit of Nestor on his last
day, Penelope asked the same
question. Nestor recollected 3-1878
the fall of Troy with ardent fervour: “*When
our watchmen spotted the enthralling
signal lights from the high 3-1881
rampart of Troy in the night, we sailed back
and rushed to storm the city through
the Scaean Gates, opened for us 3-1884
by you, Odysseus, and your heroic
comrades: Diomedes, Idomeneus,
and Neoptolemus. 3-1887
We ambushed countless Trojans in surprise,
and devastated the splendid Troy,
afame in fierce scorching fires. 3-1890*

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*Shrill screaming and heartbreaking wailing
of women and children suffocated
foul air, while gory rivers* 3-1893
*of human blood stained broad, vibrant corridors
of their once splendid glory. We won
an absolute victory* 3-1896
*over Troy, at last!” “How did King Priam face
the fatal doom of his kingdom?”
asked Penelope. “When* 3-1899
*we broke open the sturdy door of his elegant
inner court,” said Nestor, “King Priam
was praying at sacred* 3-1902
*altar of the gods: ““You had brought up Troy
to her glorious grandeur; now
you put her on the pyre,* 3-1905

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

burning ablaze in purging fire. May Troy rise
again, from her ashes in time, bringing
peace to the humanity.”” 3-1908

*Thus praying, the noble King Priam ended
his own life with a hidden dagger.”*

*“Ah, what a tragic end
of such compassionate fatherly king!”* 3-1911

cried Penelope in heartbroken
sorrow, *“how deep I wish* 3-1914

*to visit Troy with you, my Odysseus,
to pay our heartfelt homages to
the good humane Trojans* 3-1917

as humble pilgrims for peace.” Suddenly,
frail Nestor was seized by violent
spasm. When he regained 3-1920

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

his sense, he spoke in a faint solemn tone:

*“The time has come for me to leave
for Hades: I will repent* 3-1923

*our horrible crimes to the innocent victims
of Troad and their valiant heroes:*

I shall seek King Priam, 3-1926

and beg him for forgiveness of our misdeeds.

I wish to ask you, resourceful

Odysseus: please go back 3-1929

*to the ruins of Troy, and help her arise again
from her ashes to a new great nation*

for peace of humanity.” 3-1932

“I take solemn vows, wise Nestor,” said I,

“that I will devote my life for

rebirth of peace for all 3-1935

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

humanity.” Glorious glows of setting sun
suffused the noble visage of
Nestor, beaming childlike smiles: 3-1938
“My revered virtuous lady Penelope,”
gently he whispered, *“purge my soul*
from sins of pride and greed 3-1941
with your warm, healing, pure, motherly love!”
“Your noble conscience cleanses evils,”
said Penelope in tears, 3-1944
“from this harsh, hard world. Your upright spirit
shall ever live deep in our hearts.
May you rejoice in bliss 3-1947
of eternal peace.” “My life has been
a long hard journey: yet it seems
to me just a brief daydream, 3-1950

Book 3: Reflections on the Trojan War

glimpsing into the mystery of the human mind...”

That was the very last word wise Nestor

breathed out.’ *Here pauses Odysseus*

3-1953

rapt in deep thoughts and emotions. ‘Nestor

was truly a wise man: He knew who

he was!’ *says Homer-Outis,*

3-1956

breaking a deep eloquent silence that

prevails in the esoteric realm

of his creative dream.

3-1959

Book 4

***Helen's Crucial Revelations
at her Death***

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

‘Did you go with your wife
to see Helen and Menelaus in Sparta?
What did you find out from them about the real 4-3
causes of the Trojan War?’
*asks Outis. But Odysseus keeps
a heavy silence, as if he is tormented 4-6
anew by terrible
memories of ineffable
tragic events. At last, Odysseus begins 4-9
to relate his adventures:*
‘After the stately funeral of
King Nestor, the new king of Pylos, 4-12
Thrasymedes, advised us
that it would be too risky to visit
Sparta. Recently, he learned that Menelaus 4-15

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

lost his sane mind due to
brutal power-struggles and revolts.
But I convinced him that we must see Helen 4-18
urgently; we should creep
into Sparta in secret to learn what
really happened. Brave Pisistratus volunteered 4-21
to escort us, commanding
his elite troops. A commando of
warriors was disguised as merchants from Crete, 4-24
bartering their goods with
the common folks of Lacedaemon,
while Penelope and I were disguised as 2-27
humble male vagrants,
begging for foods to see first-hand
how common people struggled to survive 4-30

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

and to learn of the minds
of people from various walks of life
in the large country, ruled by Menelaus. 4-33

We sailed to a hidden cove
near Helos and landed in secret,'
says Odysseus. 'What a clever strategy 4-36

you contrived as if you
were sacking a second Troy!
Now, tell me what you found out,' *says Outis*. 4-39

'It was shocking to
witness how people suffered
dire poverty and harsh oppression 4-42

by their cruel ruler
after the terrible Trojan War.
They resented Menelaus for all their miseries, 4-45

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

but ruthless tyranny
of Menelaus suffocated groans
of his oppressed citizens. Each night we 4-48
met up our merchant scouts
and shared our secret experiences,
and planned for our next strategy: I learned 4-51
that Orestes had come
to Sparta to visit Menelaus.
In secret, we rushed to creep into Sparta. 4-54
When we came near the city
in a gloomy night, we were shocked
to find the royal palace burning ablaze. 4-57
Hungry throngs rioted in anger,
pillaging what Menelaus had hoarded.
The dire oppressed people's hatred erupted 4-60

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

like fierce catastrophic
volcanoes in seething violence.
A man, clad in armour with a sword, escaped 4-63
from the blazing palace,
but he was caught by a mob of
enraged people, assaulting him with stones. 4-66
I thought the man must be
Menelaus and ordered my brave
merchant-warriors to rescue him from 4-69
the mob. When the man was
brought in our tent, I recognized
him: not Menelaus but his loyal comrade- 4-72
in-arms, Eteoneus.
“What did happen to Menelaus,
Eteoneus?” asked I. *“Who are you,”* said 4-75

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

the astounded man in awe,
“*saving me at this crucial time?*
You look like a foreign tramp but how do 4-78
you know me?” “Don’t you recall
the old tramp, Odysseus, way back
in Troy?” “What? Resourceful son of Laertes! 4-81
Which gods did send you here
to witness the throes of our doom?”
said he. “*Just tell me where Menelaus is.*” 4-84
“*In Hades,*” said he in anguishes.
“*How did he die?*” asked I in shock.
“*I do not know what really happened among* 4-87
Menelaus, Orestes,
and Megapenthes in the inner
chamber where they met in secret. When I 4-90

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*heard the terrible rumour
of their death from crowds, I rushed to
the palace, already burning in a fierce fire.* 4-93

*At last, I saw the ghastly
horrible sight of their gory corpses
bleeding on the floor," said Eteoneus* 4-96

*in terror. "How is Helen?"
asked Penelope. "She hides in
the temple of Athena up the hill," said* 4-99

*he. "O gods, you have saved
Helen!" exclaimed she in sheer relief.
"But she will soon be killed." "Why do you say* 4-102
so, Eteoneus?" asked I.

*"Helen will be stoned to death by
the Spartans to appease their dead in War:* 4-105

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*They blame her as its wanton
cause,” said he. “Please guide us to see
Helen right now. We have a vital and urgent
mission to fulfil,” said* 4-108
Penelope in a firm, stern voice.
*“What is your secret mission? Reveal to me
who you are, stranger!” said* 4-111
Eteoneus. *“I am Penelope—
Helen’s cousin and bosom friend. Firmly
I believe in her virtue.
Tell her that I came here to see
her in secret, disguised as a male vagrant.”* 4-117
*“You, Queen Penelope?
Certainly, I will guide you to see
Queen Helen!” said Eteoneus. We disguised* 4-120

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

him as a merchant, while
we sent three of our scouts back to
King Thrasymedes, asking him to send 4-123
quickly his reliable, fast fleets
to Helos for us.' 'What astounding
events,' says *Outis in sheer excitements*, 4-126
'you have brought forth to light!
How did Helen receive your wife
and you? What did Helen reveal to you?' 4-129
'Eteoneus led us,'
says *Odysseus*, 'to a grim crypt
where Helen hid in dire fears and despairs. 4-132
'*My dear Helen, do you
remember me?"* said Penelope.
'*What? Who are you in truth,*' cried Helen in 4-135

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

great surprise, “so subtly
disguised as a strange male beggar?”
“It’s me, your old bosom friend and cousin— 4-138
Penelope.” “O, my gods,
my dear Penelope! How did
you come here to find me in this horrible 4-141
peril? Why do you risk
your life to see me, this despised
Helen at awful throes of my living-death?” 4-144
said Helen, moved in tears.
“We came to learn the truth from you,
Helen,” said Penelope in an earnest voice, 4-147
“I have always believed
that you are the good, honest, and
noble girl, I know. I can not believe 4-150

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*the common accusation
that Helen was the wanton cause
of the terrible Trojan War. Wise Nestor* 4-153
*imparted us at his death
that he also believed that Helen
had been a helpless victim of the vile* 4-156
*Atreidae's intrigues
in abusing her as a pretext
to incite the Achaeans to invade Troad.* 4-159
*Nestor regretted that
he had been deadly deceived by
the vile Atreidae to support the wrong War.* 4-162
*He also encouraged us
to visit you and find out the truth
hidden deep in your mysterious heart."* 4-165

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

“My dear Penelope,” said
Helen in a warm, reflective voice,
“you have suddenly appeared like a brave 4-168
upright goddess from heaven
to redeem me! Who are these strangers?”
“It’s me, Odysseus,” said I, “and this is 4-171
Prince Pisistratus, the brave young
son of wise Nestor: he came
with his brave elite warriors to rescue 4-174
you, Helen!” “I guided them
to find you here,” said Eteoneus.
“How wondrous to see you,” said Helen in 4-177
elation, “my trusty old friends;
You took such grave risks for my sake!
Eteoneus, please bring here the priestess 4-180

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*of Athena so that
she would sanctify this hour of
my true final confession.*” The priestess 4-183
came in and performed
a simple rite to cleanse Helen’s
body and to purify her mind. Then Helen 4-186
spoke in solemnity:
*“My dear trusty old friends, I plead you
to bear witness to my solemn confession.”* 4-189
*“Certainly, Helen, we pledge
you our honour and life to bear
witness to your true confession to us,”* 4-192
said I. *“Here I reveal,”*
said Helen, *“the true story of real
‘Helen’—ah what a cursed name, hidden secrets* 4-195

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*seething deep in my aching
heart!” “Please reveal to us, Helen,”
said I, “whatever facts you have withheld.”* 4-198

*“I confess that I was
fatefully trapped into meeting
godlike Paris, falling deep in love, and
eloping with him to Troy.* 4-201

*I wish that I were never born,
or died before that cursed day!” said Helen.* 4-204

*“Reveal who did trap you,
Helen,” said I. “Agamemnon!” cried
Helen in tears. “Ah, what a shocking name
you have uttered! Please explain
how and why Agamemnon trapped you
into eloping with Paris to Troy,” asked I.* 4-210

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

*“Suddenly, Agamemnon
sailed from Mycenae to see us.
He discussed with Menelaus in private 4-213
for many hours. Then they came
to my chamber in uneasy excitements.
“Generous Agamemnon brought with him,” said 4-216
Menelaus, “a noble
foreign guest visiting him from Troy.
I would like to invite him to stay with us 4-219
so that we may show him
our hospitality. Do you mind it,
Helen?” “Of course, we should welcome our guest, 4-222
and entertain him as best
as we can. But who is the strange
guest from a foreign land? Where is he now?” said I. 4-225*

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

“He is a handsome noble
son of Priam, the king of wealthy
powerful Troy. He sailed on his splendid ship 4-228
across the vast sea to visit
me in Mycenae. Now, he is on
his way returning home; I persuaded 4-231
him to drop by in Helos
to meet you both, and become good
friends,”” *said Agamemnon*. “A noble prince 4-234
from faraway Troy! It would
be a fabulous honour for
us to host him. What is his name?”” *said I*. 4-237
“Paris,”” *said Agamemnon*.
“Paris! Where is he now?”” *said I*.
“He is waiting on his ship, moored at piers 4-240

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

of Helos,”” *said Agamemnon.*

““Why do you keep him waiting there?””

asked I. ““I must warn you, Helen, that Paris
is an enchanting man;

He looks like Apollo in form,
plays the lyre like him, and is an outstanding
champion of archery.

During the festivals I held at
Mycenae in his honour, all ladies
became enthralled by Paris.

Our passionate Electra fell
deeply in love with him, but Paris didn’t
care for the enamoured lass.

In my prophetic dream, Zeus
sternly warned me that powerful Trojans

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

plot to invade and subdue
the whole Achaea. He ordered me
to marshal unified Achaean armies, 4-258
and lead them to attack
Troad first before they invade us.
Then we will conquer rich powerful Troad, 4-261
and make it our prosperous
colony. To achieve such a great task,
however, we need your crucial vital help, 4-264
Helen!”” *said Agamemnon*
in a serious voice. ““What do you mean?
What do I have anything to do with 4-267
your military business?””
asked I in perplexity. ““Let
your beauty enthrall Paris so that he will 4-270

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

bring you with him to Troy
as his bride and our token for peace.
The marriage will encourage Paris to 4-273
dissuade Trojans from
invading us; whereas it will help
Achaean cull a great host of armed forces. 4-276
We will subdue Troy as
our rich colony; Menelaus will
rule over Asia with his restored Queen Helen 4-279
in splendid wealth and glory,”
said cunning shameless Agamemnon.”
“How slyly Agamemnon juggled the trap! 4-282
But what did Menelaus say
about such risky disgraceful gambles
with you, Helen?” asked Penelope in dismay. 4-285

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*To my utter disgust,
he was very excited to seize wealthy
Troy as his kingdom by shameless exploitation* 4-288
*of his wife as if I were
a whore: ““This is the unique chance
for me to obtain my kingdom; I cannot* 4-291
*keep on living as a poor,
witless, henpecked husband of pretty
princess Helen in Tyndareus's kingdom.* 4-294
*I want to rule Asia
as a powerful king of Troy. To be
a new queen of Troy, must you help me, Helen!””* 4-297
*said Menelaus.” “How did you
respond to such a blatant disgrace,
Helen?” asked Penelope in stern indignation.* 4-300

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

“Solemnly, I told Menelaus:

“If you and my father will agree

with me to dissolve our unhappy marriage, 4-303

and also, if my father

would urge me to go to faraway

Troy for the sake of the whole Achaeans, then 4-306

I would accept it as

a sacred mission, bidden to

me by Zeus.” Then cunning Agamemnon 4-309

lied to me that he had

already consulted with King Tyndareus

about this important and critical matter, 4-312

and obtained his approval:

Furthermore, he brought gifts to me

from my father as his encouragement for my task. 4-315

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*He handed over me precious
treasures to bring with me to Troy.
Then, I demanded Menelaus to pledge to
Zeus and Hera that
he solemnly agreed to our divorce.
I also required Agamemnon to swear
that he had obtained my
father's consent and blessing on
this matter. Both Atreidae swore to Zeus
and Hera, by cutting
locks of their hairs, and gave them to
me as tokens of their solemn oaths." At this
point, Helen paused. I saw
numinous lights beaming from her
honest, noble face. "It is all too true!" I*

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Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

groaned in bitter anguish,
“*how utterly we were deceived*
by the evil Atreidae! I remember 4-333
how slyly Agamemnon
incited us to join in the War
with such a false pretext of bringing you 4-336
back home from Troy; how
shrewdly he slew his innocent
daughter to rush us to fight for his greed 4-339
of power and vainglory!”
“*How much you have suffered, Helen*
so wrongly accused in such a vile shame!” 4-342
said Penelope in tears,
tenderly embracing Helen.
We wept to console each other overwhelmed 4-345

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

by vile Atreidae's crimes.

"Deeply I felt," said Penelope,

*"that you had been a victim of men's vile
greed for power and vainglory.*

*Wise Nestor upheld the same belief
on his last day. But what the Atreidae
had done to you seems too*

*incredible for anyone to imagine:
How did Menelaus receive Paris when
he came to your house?*

*Why did Paris fall in love with
his host's wife so readily?" "I understand
your utter perplexity,"*

said Helen in composure,

"Sly Agamemnon urged me and Menelaus

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*that we must pretend for
Paris as if I were a maiden
sister of Menelaus' wife; thus, my maid* 4-363
*was disguised as his wife,
and I as her sister, called Adreste.
When we were prepared for the deception,* 4-366
*Agamemnon went to
the harbour to bring in Paris
to our modest house: warmly we welcomed* 4-369
*our splendid foreign guest,
and entertained him with music
and dance after dinner. Paris looked so* 4-372
*handsome, elegant, and
noble like a god shinning in
breathtaking beauty; every word he spoke* 4-375

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*sounded like heavenly music;
His gentle gestures exuded subtle
fragrances that permeated deep into my heart.* 4-378

*Carefully, Agamemnon
observed how I responded to
Paris, and he to me. Early next morning* 4-381

*he bade farewell to us
and sailed back home to Mycenae.”
“Didn't Menelaus also leave your home soon?”* 4-384

*asked I. “On the third day
of Paris's visit, Agamemnon
sent in a fake messenger from Crete:* 4-387

*He urged Menelaus to
come to Crete for the funeral
of his maternal grandfather. Menelaus* 4-390

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*rushed away with his faked wife,
leaving me alone to entertain
our guest. Soon, Paris fell deeply in love* 4-393
*with me, and asked me to
marry him; to our collective fate
willingly I yielded in obedience,” said* 4-396
Helen rapt in deep thought.
“*Did you, Helen, truly love Paris?*”
asked Penelope. “*Yes, I have loved him* 4-399
*with all my heart and soul
since I saw him for the first time,”*
said Helen, glowing in bliss. “*Didn’t you* 4-402
love Menelaus, at all?”
“*Never!*” cried Helen, “*my cowardly
father sold me to the dull wimp, tempted by* 4-405

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*sly Agamemnon's bribery
and dark threatening intrigues."*

"As I guessed," said Penelope, "but I 4-408
*wonder how you escaped
from Helos with Paris to sail
across such vast, dangerous seas to the strange* 4-411
faraway mystic land of Troy."

*"Paris waited for timely return
of Menelaus and his faked wife to ask for* 4-414
their blessing of our marriage.

*But on the tenth day of his visit,
his expert sailors persuaded him to sail* 4-417
*back home: Paris promised
me that he would come back to Helos
the next spring to take me as his bride to Troy.* 4-420

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*Then I confessed to Paris
how deep I loved him: I couldn't live
a day without him anymore. Hence, we went* 4-423
*aboard together his sleek
splendid ship and glided on wide-open
seas glittering in brilliant sunlight,"* 4-426
said Helen rapt deep in
her cherished memories. "Did any
Spartans hinder your passage, or pursue 4-429
the Paris's ship?" asked I.
"No, none did," said Helen. "Now it
reminds me," said Eteoneus, "of that odd day: 4-432
Menelaus had been watching
the Paris's ship from a high lookout,
hidden in an isle near Helos. When he 4-435

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*noticed that the Paris's ship
was leaving, he rushed to urge his fleet
of warships to capture it, but Agamemnon* 4-438
*appeared in a sudden,
and sternly halted Menelaus: let
Paris sail home freely. It was so strange* 4-441
and weird to me at that time!"
"Ah, those cunning Atreidae!" sighed
I, *"When did Paris realize that you had been* 4-444
*Menelaus's wife, Helen,
not his faked maiden sister-in-law,
Adreste?" "After sailing on wide-open sea,"* 4-447
*said Helen, "we landed on
a pristine rocky island, untouched
by any human settlement, at glorious* 4-450

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*sunset. For the first time
in my life, I felt pure freedom
from the dire oppression of evil tyrants.* 4-453

*Gently embracing me
with tender love, noble Paris
whispered to me: “Your heavenly beauty* 4-456

*enchants me in delight
like an ethereal goddess of
pure love, my beloved noble Adreste!”* 4-459

*His pure gentle love broke
my heart, tormenting my conscience
as well as blessing me with such blissful* 4-462
ecstasy of true love.

*“Why do you stain,” said Paris in
loving voice, “your beauteous face with tears,* 4-465

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

my divine Adreste?””

““I am not a pure maiden, called
Adreste,”” *said I heartbroken*, ““but Helen: 4-468

I was the accursed wife
of Menelaus. Agamemnon trapped me
into enticing you so that you would take me 4-471

to Troy. But it is you,
my godlike Paris, who has enthralled me
to follow you wherever you would lead me. 4-474

The vile Atreidae scheme
to invade Troy by inciting
others with the pretext of my elopement. 4-477

I repent my deception.
Let me die left alone here,
freed at last from agonies of my dire fate.”” 4-480

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

“No, my divine beloved!”
said Paris resolutely, “I love
you, and will protect you from all evils,
no matter who you had been
as long as you will love me in truth.”
“O noble godlike Paris!” *said I in warm
tears of joy*, “I am far too
sordid to be loved by someone
like you. I was a child born of rape; while
my mother, Leda, bathed
in Eurotas, they say, Zeus
in the disguise of a swan made love to her.
In the bloom of my youth,
I also suffered a brutal rape by
Theseus, who abducted me while I swam in

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Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

the same fateful river.

Adding miseries to my wretched life,
my father, Tyndareus, chose dull Menelaus 4-498
as my husband from many
gallant suitors, manipulated by
evil Agamemnon with bribery and threat. 4-501

Before I met you, Paris,
I had been suffering a hapless
living-death in the miserable dungeon 4-504
of my cursed unhappy

marriage to Menelaus.”” *Thus I*
confessed in earnest my awful past to 4-507
godlike Paris.” “*How did*
he take your honest confession?”

asked Penelope with heartfelt sympathy. 4-510

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*“He gently embraced me
and wept with me in love. I felt
his gentle and noble magnanimity,
pervading deep my soul:
It was a miraculous rebirth
of new life from the ashes of my wretched past. 4-513
The bright full moon rose up
from the shimmering horizon:
We gazed it together in eloquent 4-519
silence of mystic love:
Rapt in pure ineffable bliss
we consummated our true love, enchanted by 4-522
the magic of blessing night,”
said Helen. “When you arrived in Troy,”
asked I, “how did the Trojans receive you, 4-525*

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*Helen?" "They welcomed me
with gracious kindness as the bride
of their beloved Prince Paris. After many
splendid festivals
to celebrate my coming to Troy,
I went with Paris to see King Priam
and Queen Hecuba in private
at their inner chamber: I confessed
to them how the sly Atreidae had abused
me as their vile ploy to
incite the Achaeans to invade
Troy. King Priam spoke in indignation:
"If you are the daughter
of Zeus as your divine beauty
and nobility attest, what villains could*

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Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

dare to abuse you as if
you were a wanton woman!
We embrace you, Helen, as our beloved 4-543
new daughter blessed by Zeus.
We pledge our lives to the mighty gods
to protect you in justice and sacred love.” 4-546
*I wept in heartfelt thanks
and joys of new life, breathing in
true love. King Priam had been the noble 4-549
loving father to me
till the tragic end of his upright
dignified life.” “I am so happy to learn, 4-552
Helen,” said Penelope,
“that noble Priam understood
your intricate situations and gladly 4-555*

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*embraced you with such warm
love. Have you ever regretted that
you came to Troy with Paris?” “We relished 4-558
our happy married life
in simple peace,” said Helen, “till
a woeful day in our third year: Suddenly, 4-561
Cassandra rushed into
our house and told us that she’d heard
a wandering minstrel sing to large crowds 4-564
a tale about our love affairs
as shameful adultery. In shock
and anger, we ran to see the minstrel: 4-567
He had just finished his
singing; the amused crowds applauded
him with cheer and gave him ample handouts. 4-570*

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

*When the large crowds dispersed,
Paris asked him about what he had sung:
The minstrel said that it was a very famous 4-573
and popular tale, called
'The Judgment of Paris on Beauty
of Three Goddesses', which he learned in Crete. 4-576
He offered to sing it again
for us if we would give him gifts.
Suppressing our anger and anguish, 4-579
we heard him sing absurd fibs
and vile frauds about Paris and me:
"Sing, Muse, of the bold judgment of Paris, 4-582
the handsome prince of Troy:
One day from high Olympus, three
goddesses—Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite— 4-585*

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

descended to Paris while
he was shepherding on the high
Mount Ida: they wanted him to resolve the acute 4-588
dispute, as to which of them
was the fairest. Hera offered
Paris a vast empire to rule over, if he 4-591
would judge her as the fairest.
Athena promised to make him
the most glorious hero whose fame would 4-594
shine forever, if Paris
would choose her; whereas Aphrodite
enticed Paris with the fantastic vision 4-597
of beautiful Helen,
and promised him that she
would be his loving wife, if Paris would 4-600

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

judge her to be the fairest
among the goddesses competing for
beauty. Behold, Paris chose Aphrodite 4-603
as the fairest of all,
because he loved Helen more than
his kingship or his heroic fame. Hence, 4-606
gently guided by the goddess
of love, Paris sailed to Sparta
to find lovely Helen and won her to 4-609
elope with him to live
in the vibrant, splendid Troy. But
Hera and Athena had been deeply insulted 4-612
by the judgment of Paris:
They vowed to punish him with dire
devastation of Troy by the Achaeans.” ” 4-615

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

Here paused Helen to restore
her composure. Then Pisistratus
spoke: "*I used to hear the same folktale about* 4-618
the romance of Paris
and Helen, told by my nurse in
Pylos; 'Paris and Helen' sounded to me 4-621
as fictional characters
in old fables from a bygone era.
I have never dreamed that the folktale would 4-624
have anything to do
with real people whom I would meet!"
"I also remember the tale," said Eteoneus, 4-627
"suddenly spreading in
Sparta like an old folk song, some time
after the Atreidae began to urge Achaeans 4-630

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*to invade Troy.” “Do you
suspect, Helen, that Agamemnon
made up such a glib fable as if it were 4-633
an old folk song which people
take for granted to be true?” asked I.
“Yes! Well ahead launching a thousand warships 4-636
to attack Troad, guileful
Agamemnon sent out countless sly
minstrels to spread the glib fib to delude 4-639
peoples: first, the Achaeans,
then, the common folks of broad Troad.
Even our high priestess Cassandra believed 4-642
that the three goddesses
had visited her brother, Paris,
for the foolish absurd beauty contest, 4-645*

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*and that Paris had made
wrong fateful judgment by choosing
Aphrodite. Because Paris insulted Hera* 4-648
*and Athena, the two most
powerful goddesses, they would punish
not only Paris but also the entire Trojans:* 4-651
*The invincible armed forces
of the whole Achaea would invade
the Troad, plunder the affluent defenceless towns,* 4-654
*and eventually destroy
splendid, powerful Troy itself.
Paris spoke in composure, confuting* 4-657
*Cassandra with cogent
logic: “I know nothing of such
an absurd nonsense: I have never seen* 4-660

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

any goddess nor a god
in truth, let alone speaking with them.
What you heard from the minstrel are blatant 4-663
scheming lies, all conjured
up by wily Agamemnon to incite
the hypocritical Achaeans to wage war 4-666
against us. Who am I to judge
on the matter of beauty even for
mortals? How could a man judge on the beauty 4-669
of unseen goddesses? Why
would Hera, the wife of Zeus,
or Athena, the goddess of wisdom, 4-672
or Aphrodite who
rules every heart in love, would
care to hear what this Paris—a paltry mortal 4-675

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

creature—was faked to have
prattled on their beauty? Such glib
inane fibs are malicious impious insults 4-678
to the very integrity
of these sacred goddesses!”” *Despite*
such clear, cogent confutation by Paris, 4-681
however, Cassandra
persisted that the folktale revealed
the will of Zeus. She accused me as 4-684
a wanton whore who was
doomed by Hera and Athena
to be the vile cause of the destruction 4-687
of the entire Troad by
the Achaeon armies, unless
the Trojans expel me back to Sparta 4-690

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

right away,” lamented Helen
in renewed anguishes. “*Now I see,*
Helen, such unimaginably pernicious 4-693
harms the glib tale, spread by
wandering minstrels, had inflicted,”
said Penelope, “*not only upon you, but* 4-696
also on all innocent
victims of the cruel War. How
terribly foolish I have been, never 4-699
suspecting such a glib
yet deadly fib! I wish to know
the true reason why Paris took the risky 4-702
long voyage to Helos.”
“*Agamemnon persuaded Paris*
to visit Mycenae with him,” said Helen. 4-705

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*“What? How strange!” said I, “did
they know each other previously?”*

*“Yes. Agamemnon had visited Troad many times, 4-708
with his merchant fleets, loaded
with valuable goods in pretense for
diplomacy of peace and for promotion 4-711
of goodwill in trading
with the rich countries in the East,”*

*said Helen. “But I wonder how he could 4-714
have visited Troad so freely,”*

*said I. “Agamemnon had a Trojan
ally, called Antenor: the counsellor to 4-717
King Priam and powerful
leader of their nobles. He highly
recommended Agamemnon to King Priam 4-720*

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*to be treated as an honoured
guest, and let handsome Paris be
his expert guide during his visits of Troad.* 4-723

*Hence, Paris rigged his sleek ship
and guided the Agamemnon's merchant
fleets. Sailing along the extensive coasts of Troad,* 4-726
*they visited countless towns,
and traded their goods and enhanced
their friendship with the local inhabitants.* 4-729

*Several Mycenean men
of the Agamemnon's retinue
fell in love with Trojan women and brought* 4-732
*them to Mycenae as
their brides. What they had done appeared
to be of goodwill, but it was Agamemnon's* 4-735

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*sly scheme to spy on Troad
for his later military strategies:
He had plotted out which prosperous cities* 4-738
*to raid and plunder, well
ahead he mustered the Achaean
armies to invade Troad many years later,”* 4-741
*said Helen. “Too late, but
I see all clearly now!” said I,
“I wondered how well he knew which Trojan* 4-744
*towns to sack and what to rob
from each place.” “Do you know, Helen,
how Agamemnon persuaded Paris to visit* 4-747
*Mycenae?” asked Penelope.
“Agamemnon convinced King Priam
that Paris’s visit of Mycenae would greatly* 4-750

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*enhance cultural as
well as commercial exchanges
between the Trojans and the Achaeans, 4-753
and promote their friendship
and prosperity in peace. Furthermore,
he promised Paris to get priceless rewards 4-756
for his helpful guidance:
Precious treasures, and most of all,
a beautiful noble Achaean lady 4-759
to take home as his bride:
Agamemnon offered him one of
his daughters for marriage. With Priam's 4-762
consent, Paris willingly
set sail on his ship, and followed
the Agamemnon's fleet returning to 4-765*

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

Mycenae,” said Helen.

*“Thus played Agamemnon the role
of Aphrodite in the glib fable, called* 4-768

*““Abduction of Helen
by Paris.”” How did Paris get
along with the people during his visit* 4-771
in Mycenae?” asked

*Penelope. “For the entire three
weeks, Agamemnon held lavish feasts and* 4-774
festivals,” said Helen,

*“in honour of Paris: he invited
Tyndareus; my gentle mother; my two* 4-777
brave brothers, your father

*Icarus, and many other guests.
The superb artistic talents, wondrous* 4-780

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*beauty, and warm gentle
nobility of Paris must have
enthralled all noble ladies gathered in 4-783
Agamemnon's palace;
But none of them won over his heart.
To pursue his sly scheme, Agamemnon 4-786
persuaded Paris to
visit Menelaus to meet with
his maiden sister-in-law, renowned for 4-789
her enthralling beauty.
Thus beguiled by Agamemnon,
Paris sailed from Mycenae to Helos: 4-792
This is how it happened
that Paris came to me to be
my beloved hero in our heartbreaking 4-795*

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

tragedy of true love."

Here paused Helen rapt in reverie,
moving us to tremble in awe, and weep
in deeply heartfelt pity.

*"In spite of dire miseries, you suffered,
Helen,"* said Penelope, *"I am so glad that
you found your true love in*

Paris, at last." *"No! I wish,"* said
Helen, *"I were never born, or died when*

*I was young and pure, or
there were no devils like evil*

*Agamemnon in this world! I have been
so shamefully abused*

*to cause such horrible miseries
of countless innocent, kind, good peoples!"*

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*“How did Cassandra’s fierce
accusation of you, Helen,
as the wanton cause for the destruction
of Troy, affect you and
Paris?” asked Penelope. “It
devastated me;” said Helen in grave mood,
“Paris took it seriously
as he foresaw Agamemnon’s
guileful schemes to invade the defenceless
towns along the long coastlines
of Troad. Discreetly he sent spies
to Mycenae; they found busy shipbuilding
in preparation for war.
King Priam summoned an urgent
meeting of the whole Trojan nobles on*

4-813

4-816

4-819

4-822

4-825

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*this grave matter. Paris
warned them of the evil Agamemnon's
plot to attack Troad with the false absurd
pretext, so-called "Abduction
of Helen by Paris." He insisted
that Trojans must build up new powerful
naval forces to defend
Troad from the ambitious cunning
Agamemnon's attacks in the future.* 4-828

*But Antenor, the leader
of the Trojan nobles, dismissed
the Paris's warnings as a dangerous scheme
which would provoke wars.* 4-831

*He accused Paris and me as
shameless wanton criminals who attempted* 4-834

4-837

4-840

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*to cover up our faults,
by vilifying Agamemnon
as if he had plotted our shameful misdeed* 4-843
to be punished by gods.
*Such strong oppositions to Paris's
plans and sever hostility towards me* 4-846
*by Antenor and other
powerful Trojan nobles compelled
King Priam not to take any decisive* 4-849
actions on this grave matter.
*Furthermore, cunning Antenor
invited Menelaus to Troy to testify* 4-852
*falsely to King Priam
that he had married another
woman in place of me, and thus, had no* 4-855

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

enmity against Paris
and me, at all. When King Priam
showed him the cut hairs of the Atreidae, 4-858
which they gave me as
tokens of their solemn oaths on
the dissolution of our bad marriage, 4-861
Menelaus confirmed that
I had divorced him before I came
to Troy with Paris. Hence, he insisted that 4-864
Paris's false warning of
an invasion by the Achaeans
was a treacherous provocation of war. 4-867
Then Antenor blamed me
as a charming witch who had misled
their noble prince, Paris, to incite grave 4-870

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

war against the Achaeans.

*A few months later, the Emperor
of Hittite Empire summoned Paris* 4-873
to see him in Hattusa.

Paris went there with Helenus.
They found out that Agamemnon had sent 4-876
his envoy to the Hittite

emperor, claiming that Prince Paris
from Troy had abducted the Queen of Sparta, 4-879
Helen: Furthermore, Paris

attempted to attack Achaea
with newly built Trojan navy in sly 4-882
pretext for prevention

of plausible revenge by the insulted
Achaeans. King Agamemnon requested that 4-885

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*the mighty Hittite emperor
reprimand his criminal subject,
Paris, for justice, and restrain him from* 4-888
*committing evil wars
against innocent peaceful Achaeans.”*
“What a guileful genius of evilness,” 4-891
I groaned, “Agamemnon had
possessed! How did Paris fare in
his extremely difficult and delicate 4-894
diplomatic mission
at the court of the Hittite empire?”
“He succeeded in convincing the emperor 4-897
about Agamemnon's pretext
and cunning scheme for invasion
of Troad. But the emperor forbade any build-up 4-900

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*of a strong Trojan navy;
If Agamemnon should attack Troy
as Paris worried, then the mighty Hittite 4-903
armed forces would protect it.
He awarded Paris a hundred steeds
and loads of new weapons for defending Troad. 4-906
But it was an empty
useless promise as the Hittite
empire fell by its internal disputes 4-909
and corruption. Then Paris
tried to build a navy based on
Tenedos to defeat invading Achaean 4-912
fleets at sea; Hector and
Helenus supported him with
great enthusiasm. But Antenor and his 4-915*

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*followers objected it
so fiercely that King Priam felt
the threat of their terrible rebellion,”* 4-918
said Helen in dismay.

*“I admire the brilliant keen
foresight of wise Paris; if the Trojans* 4-921
*had succeeded in building
up their powerful naval forces,
they could have defeated us at sea before* 4-924
*we could ever land on
their soil. I wonder why Antenor
and his followers pursued such an absurd* 4-927
suicidal course.” said I

in perplexity. “Antenor was
the pernicious traitor to King Priam; 4-930

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*Soon after the Achaean
host invaded Troad, he and his vile
followers moved to the northern regions* 4-933
in pretense to protect them.
*Then Antenor proclaimed himself
as a new king of Troad, decreed by Zeus:* 4-936
*The Priam's monarchy
would be destroyed soon by Hera,
Athena, and Poseidon as their just* 4-939
*punishment of Paris's fatal
misjudgment!" Thus spoken, Helen
swooned in throes of agonies,' says Odysseus.* 4-942
*'Ah, what a drastic treason!'
interrupts Outis, 'Now, I see that
the real causative agent of the Trojan War* 4-945

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

was Antenor who might have
manipulated ambitious thoughtless
Agamemnon to invade Troad so that he 4-948
could usurp the throne from
King Priam!' 'My dear bard, Outis,
show me the power of your imaginations. 4-951
How will you convince your
audiences what you infer but have no
factual knowledge?' *says Odysseus, beaming* 4-954
subtle smiles. 'The enigma
of the Trojan War which has perplexed
me all my life may be solved, I surmise, 4-957
as follows: let us presume
that its primary causative
agent is Antenor who wants to usurp 4-960

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

Priam. He persuades
Agamemnon to invade the rich
undefended regions of Troad and plunder 4-963
their abundant resources:
He invites Agamemnon to tour
the vast territory of Troad, led by 4-966
Paris as his good guide.
Agamemnon persuades Paris
to visit Mycenae, and then entices 4-969
him to see Helen in
Helos. When Paris and Helen
are trapped by his sly ploy, Agamemnon grasps 4-972
the crucial chance to seize
his compulsive power; he incites
the whole Achaeans to attack Troad for 4-975

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

revenge of the alleged
abduction of Helen by Paris.
When Helen is settled happily in Troy 4-978
as the beloved wife of
Paris, Antenor conjures up
the ingenious fable, so-called *The Judgment* 4-981
of Paris on the Beauty
of three Goddesses. He spreads his hoax
folktale as if it were a genuine mythology 4-984
in the remote rural
regions of Troad, and sends his minstrels
to Agamemnon for its rapid propagation 4-987
throughout the Achaea.
When Paris hears the hoax folktale
he realizes its potent grave danger to 4-990

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

the Priam's monarchy:
It presages the deadly revenge
of Hera and Athena for the alleged 4-993
insult by Paris: they
will inflict a fatal demise
of the Priam's monarchy. The hoax tale 4-996
affected not only ignorant
common folks but also convinced
priestess Cassandra to accuse Helen as 4-999
the cause of Troy's demise.
Paris alerts Priam to prepare for
formidable war; he urges to build powerful 4-1002
naval forces to vanquish
the invading Achaean warships
at the sea. But Antenor impedes Paris's 4-1005

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

crucial plan for naval defence of Troad; he invites Menelaus to give a false testimony that he has no enmity about Paris's love affairs with Helen, and has no intention to make a war.	4-1008
Furthermore, Antenor manipulates Agamemnon to plead to the Hittite emperor forbidding Paris from carrying out his bold plan to build a strong Trojan navy. When the huge Achaean armada invades the defenceless rich Troad to plunder, Antenor seizes the chance to rule vast Troad as its new king, except Troy.	4-1014 4-1017 4-1020

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

The above facts, revealed
by Helen, compel me to infer
that the real, primary, causative agent 4-1023
of the Trojan War was
Antenor!' *says Outis with sincere,*
resolute conviction. 'I admire your keen 4-1026
incisive inference,
my insightful Outis! What more do
you want to hear from me?' *says Odysseus.* 4-1029
'Please tell me what other
vital things Helen revealed to you.'
'When Helen restored her sense, Penelope 4-1032
comforted her shedding tears:
"Ah my dear Helen, you have been
such a miserable victim of evil devils: 4-1035

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

treacherous Antenor
and vile Atreidae! How did King
Priam withstand the treason of Antenor 4-1038
and the massive invasion
of the Achaean host?" "I don't know
how he handled the complex secret affairs 4-1041
of the state; yet he kept
his composure as a competent
king and compassionate father of his people," 4-1044
said Helen with reverence,
"After the Achaeans' invasion
and the terrible treason of Antenor, 4-1047
I felt much more relieved:
The people of Troy appreciated
the foresight of Paris for establishing 4-1050

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*a crucial naval force;
They respected my honesty, at last.
The first nine years were unexpectedly 4-1053
calm; the Achaean host
did not occupy any Trojan towns
to rule over them as their new masters. 4-1056
They behaved as homeless,
shameless pirates; greedy plundering,
then returning to their ships for the next looting 4-1059
of other towns at their will,
as they ruled over the vast seaways.”
“When did the Achaean armies begin to 4-1062
attack Troy itself, Helen?
How did the Trojans bear on you
after the real bloody conflicts?” asked Penelope. 4-1065*

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*“In the awful tenth year,
the Achaean fleets moved to the south.
Just before they occupied Tenedos, 4-1068
Helenus took a few
Trojan ships, and sailed to unknown
isles in the south, perhaps hoping to build 4-1071
a Trojan navy, someday.
The first awful shock shattered me;
I learned from Paris that brutal Achilles 4-1074
killed Andromache's father,
King Eetion of Thebe and his brave
seven sons. Despite their noble bravery, 4-1077
they could not defend
their country from overwhelmingly
larger Achaean horde who attacked them. 4-1080*

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*I rushed to Andromache
but I couldn't speak a word, frozen
in deep anguish of sorrow and shame; we* 4-1083
*hugged each other and wept
speechless. Then Cassandra came in
and accused me that I was the very vile cause* 4-1086
*for the just retribution
of Hera and Athena with dire
devastating pillages of Trojan cities* 4-1089
*by the enraged Achaeans:
To save the innocent Trojans,
Cassandra insisted that I must go to* 4-1092
*the Achaean camp to
appease and persuade them to go
back to their homeland with me. At that time,* 4-1095

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

*Hector came in, fully armed
for imminent crucial combats.
Humbly I knelt at his knee, and spoke in tears:* 4-1098
“Brave, noble Hector, tell me
what I must do—this wretched cause for
all your ills. I am ready to die to prevent 4-1101
further sufferings of our good
innocent Trojans!” “You are not
the cause, Helen, at all,” *said Hector, gently* 4-1104
raising me, “but the victim
of treacherous Antenor’s and vile
Agamemnon’s awful pernicious intrigues. 4-1107
You had warned us about
the potent Achaean invasion
long time ago, but Antenor betrayed us 4-1110

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

to ignore your honest
alert. It is formidable tasks,
I know, to defend Troy from the vile 4-1113
inside traitors and outside
invaders. But I firmly believe
that righteousness and justice shall prevail: 4-1116
We will fight bravely to
expel the evil foes from our sacred
Troad. Cheer up my dear conscientious Helen! 4-1119
You must uplift all
Trojans with your vivacious
and noble spirit for the victory of 4-1122
lofty righteousness. Go to
Paris, and get him ready to join
with me in the battle.”” *When I came back* 4-1125

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*home, Paris had already
left for the battlefield. I rushed
to the tower above Scaean Gate and shouted 4-1128
aloud to cheer up the whole
Trojan troops for their victory. Soon
Andromache and many other women joined 4-1131
in cheering up their husbands
and sons. Paris and Hector turned
towards us and lifted their spears high up 4-1134
to salute us; then they
dashed forward to fight. At sunset,
they returned home safe triumphantly: 4-1137
They routed out a much larger
horde of the Achaeans,” said Helen.
“I remember our first awful encounter,” 4-1140*

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

said I, *"Hector could have
easily speared Achilles to death;
But he tried to capture Achilles alive* 4-1143
*as he pleaded to save his life
for ransom; Ajax, Diomedes
and I rescued Achilles from Hector."* 4-1146

Then Penelope spoke:
*"Tell me, Helen, of this mystic
man, Hector. I heard that he was a wondrous* 4-1149
*husband, loving father,
and loyal son as well as the most
courageous hero."* 4-1152 *"Yes! Hector was the most
godlike man: brave, upright,
trusty, magnanimous, yet prudent
and gentle. He had been my compassionate* 4-1155

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*protector from false charges
of vicious Antenor and Cassandra.
When Hector met his death so nobly in 4-1158
defending his country,
I lamented that he had been
the victim of my grave fateful misdeed: 4-1161
I should have punished
the vile Atreidae to death with
poison, when they tempted me to entice Paris 4-1164
and elope with him to Troy;
then kill myself to end the dire
tragedy of my terrible baneful fate. 4-1167
With Hector, my faith in
righteousness and justice perished!”
Thus spoke, Helen turned pale, trembling in 4-1170*

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

awful spasm, overwhelmed by
heartbreaking emotions of regret,
anger, remorse, and repentance. All of us 4-1173
fell speechless in utter
agonies. When Helen recovered
her composure, she spoke in pensive tone: 4-1176
*“I wish to impart you
the last dialogue I had with
Paris: When he woke up early in that
fatal day, he told me
that he saw in his dream late Hector
speaking: “Wise, brilliant Paris, today
you may vanquish Agamemnon,
the worst evil ever existed
on earth. Next, aim at Odysseus: he is* 4-1185

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

our most dangerous foe;
He has resourceful wits and prudent
guts. He is much more relentless to destroy 4-1188
Troy than mad Achilles was!”
*Thus spoken, the spirit of Hector
faded away in his dream. Paris asked me what 4-1191
I knew of the enigmatic
Odysseus. Then I told Paris:*
““Odysseus has a resourceful brain that 4-1194
can devise superb strategies.
He can bear calmly harsh insults
and dire hardship. I know that Odysseus 4-1197
hated arrogant Agamemnon;
But why he had relentlessly
pursued this vile, cruel War, and so firmly 4-1200

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

determined to destroy
Troy, as if he were a witless
base slave to evil Agamemnon, dismays 4-1203
me in perplexity and
utter disgusts. I cannot believe
that Odysseus could be so stupid to be 4-1206
brain-washed by the cunning
Agamemnon's absurd hoax pretext:
“‘*Abduction of Helen by Paris.*’” Nestor 4-1209
may have influenced Odysseus.
But what their real goal is, I do not
know. In any case, Odysseus can be our most 4-1212
dangerous enemy as
forewarned by Hector!” “I will keep
Odysseus in mind, Helen. But today, I want 4-1215

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

to kill vile Agamemnon
to purge the worst evil itself
from this world.”” *That was the last words Paris* 4-1218
spoke to me. What really
happened on that fateful day, I
cannot utter in my sane mind: I lost 4-1221
my beloved divine Paris
to the evil itself! Where are
righteousness and justice in this wretched world? 4-1224
Why have I been suffering
in this awful living-death for
so long? Perhaps to impart my secret 4-1227
truth to you, Odysseus
and Penelope?” Helen turned
pale in deadly throes of agonies and swooned. 4-1230

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

Awful sorrows and anguishes
suffocated us in the doleful gloomy
crypt. What Helen told to Paris about me— 4-1233
this odious enigmatic
creature *Odysseus*—it was all too
bitterly true for me to bear; I had been 4-1236
a base, witless, cowardly
slave to sly evil Agamemnon,
despite I despised him. How much I wished 4-1239
to kill my detested self
to repent my crimes in utter shame!’
Here pauses Odysseus, overwhelmed by remorse. 4-1242
‘I am thunderstruck,’ says
Outis in tears, ‘to learn the appalling
facts revealed by Helen! O, gods forgive 4-1245

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

our deadly sins against
virtuous, noble Helen! Forbid
all senseless tongues of paltry minstrels from 4-1248
prattling glib inane fibs.
How deep I repent what I've falsely sung
about Helen in dark ignorance! Please resume 4-1251
revealing what happened next.'
'Then, Eteoneus spoke in a sombre voice:
"I am stupefied, my brave, honest Queen Helen, 4-1254
to hear your astounding
revelation of Agamemnon's sly,
horrible intrigues. Many times, I overheard 4-1257
sad, mournful Menelaus
lamenting in dire pangs of agony:
"Ah, accursed brother! Why did you ruin me, 4-1260

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

my good, noble wife,
and yourself in such shameful and
utter miseries?" *The dark meaning of his* 4-1263
desperate sighs becomes
clear to me, now. I wish to know what
have caused us to face the dire gruesome facts 4-1266
in grave peril: Menelaus,
Orestes, and Megapenthes perished
in mutual slaughters. Do you know, my Queen, 4-1269
why they ended their lives
in such hideous kin's bloodshed?"
"I don't know how it happened," said Helen, 4-1272
"but they had incurable
animosities: proud Orestes held
insolent contempts on Megapenthes as 4-1275

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*he was a slave-born bastard;
Megapenthes hated Orestes as he
was a mad lunatic who killed his mother;* 4-1278
*His cowardly murder
of Neoptolemus enraged Megapenthes.
Lately, Menelaus had lost his sane mind,* 4-1281
*suspecting everyone
in fear and outrage. While the three
met to scheme crucial matters in secret,* 4-1284
*I came here with Hermione
to pray to the goddesses so that
they may bless her new marriage to Orestes.”* 4-1287
At this time, the priestess
of Athena came in and said
in a grave tone: “*Woes on woes heap upon you,* 4-1290

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

*Queen Helen. Your gentle
Hermione is dead!” “What? How did
she die?”* cried Helen in shock. *“Angry fierce* 4-1293
*Spartans found her weeping
near your palace and stoned her to death.
Soon, they will find out,”* said the priestess, 4-1296
*“that you are here. Please flee
right away.” “I will meet my death with
conscience and integrity in peace, as I have* 4-1299
completed my confession,”
said Helen. *“No! They shall not harm
righteous Queen Helen,”* cried I, *“we have many* 4-1302
*brave warriors ready in
disguise to escort you safely
to Helos, where swift, strong fleets from Pylos* 4-1305

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*are waiting to convey
you wherever you wish to go.”*
“From my heart and soul, I thank you, my brave 4-1308
resourceful Odysseus!” said
Helen, beaming lovely subtle smiles,
“But the time has come for me to be released 4-1311
from the awful throes of
my living-death. When the justly
indignant citizens of Sparta stone me 4-1314
to death, burn my cursed body.
How deep I wish that someone would
carry my ash to Troy, and bury it with 4-1317
my beloved Paris so that
we may rejoin in bliss, even if
as formless ashes of our eternal love!’ 4-1320

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

Overwhelmed by heartbreaking
sorrows and strange, ineffable
elation of her sincere, noble spirit, 4-1323
we all became speechless
and wept with heartfelt sympathy.
Suddenly, Helen arose as if awakened 4-1326
from nightmares: "*Ah Ganymede,*
our beloved son! Where do you wander
now, bereft of your loving parents, forlorn 4-1329
in the desolate ruins
of once-glorious Troy?" "*Ganymede?*
Your son by Paris? Did you leave him in Troy, 4-1332
Helen?" asked Penelope
in surprise. "*Yes. In the night after*
the whole Achaean ships left Trojan shores, 4-1335

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*pretending as if they were
sailing home, the spirit of Paris
appeared in my dream and urged in a grave voice:* 4-1338

“Awake, my beloved Helen!
Bring our Ganymede in strict secret
to the temple of Apollo in Mount Ida: 4-1341

Entrust him to the priestess
as a refugee right away. The Achaean
ships will come back soon, and burn down Troy 4-1344

into ashes. Ganymede is
our only hope who can make our nation
rise again from the ashes of its ruin.” *Thus spoke,* 4-1347

*the spirit of Paris
vanished from me. I trusted his words
with all my heart and soul, and carried out* 4-1350

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*his foresighted solemn behest
with courage, overcoming painful
sorrows of a tender loving mother:* 4-1353

*I carried our beloved son
all by myself to Mount Ida,
and entrusted him to the trustful priestess
of Apollo, praying* 4-1356

*for the god's merciful protection
of our beloved Ganymede. The priestess
kindly accepted my plea,* 4-1359

*and vowed to gods that she would
bring up Ganymede as if he were her child.* 4-1362

*But I could not leave
my beloved baby, cuddling to me.
Heartbroken, I wept in utter despairs.* 4-1365

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*Suddenly, a servant
rushed in and broke the terrible news:
The Achaean armies sacked Troy in ruins!* 4-1368

*I realized that what Paris
had presaged in my dream came out
to be too true for me to bear in anguish.* 4-1371

*I bade a heartbreaking
farewell to my beloved baby,
and descended Mount Ida to return to Troy.* 4-1374

*As I came closer, I saw
horrible fires engulfing whole Troy.
Some fleeing Trojan women recognized* 4-1377

*me as the fateful cause
of their dire calamities: they
grew angry mobs who threatened to kill me.* 4-1380

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

*Suddenly, a stone hit
my head; I fell and lost my sense.”*
Thus spoke, Helen fell in traumatic silence. 4-1383
“Ah, I do remember,”
said Eteoneus in a grave voice,
“that horrible crucial incident in shock. 4-1386
*We had been searching for
our elusive mystic Helen
everywhere in Troy but nobody knew what* 4-1389
*happened to her in dismay;
Queen Hecuba told us that she
disappeared suddenly with her young child.* 4-1392
*Cassandra suspected that
Helen had fled to the Achaean
host, and had been hiding under Agamemnon's* 4-1395

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*custody. In dreadful
anxiety and perplexity,
Menelaus and I kept on our desperate search.* 4-1398

*One day, I spot Trojan
women throwing stones at someone;
When we came close to the scene, they fled away.* 4-1401

*There lay our Helen bleeding.
Menelaus bewailed in deep remorse,
repenting his faults and praying for her
miraculous revival.”* 4-1404

*“Ah, my dear Helen! You came back
from the verge of death!” said Penelope,* 4-1407

*“When you regained your sense,
how did you confront with Menelaus?”
“In shock, I saw him alone, sobbing by my side.* 4-1410

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

*When he noticed that I had
revived, he cried in thrill and delight:*

“O my beloved Helen, you’ve come back to life! 4-1413

Forgive me for my faults.

I repent my wrong cowardly
misuse of my noble wife to achieve 4-1416
my evil ambitions

for meaningless glory all in vain!”

“Menelaus,” *said I*, “I am your prisoner 4-1419
ready to die at any time.

It took twenty years for you to
seize Troy. But why did you obliterate it 4-1422
into ruins with such ruthless

savagery? Do you want to govern
gloomy ghosts of the dead, groaning in gory 4-1425

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

wastes of once wealthy, splendid,
powerful Troad?"' *Suddenly, cunning*
Agamemnon intruded us rudely and bellowed: 4-1428
 "Ah, Helen! How did you
get by to hide here, evading all
our searches like a wanton witch? I will take 4-1431
 you under my custody
until we decide what to do
with you for your wanton sins.'" "Stop prattling 4-1434
 such shameless nonsense,
sly Agamemnon!" *roared Menelaus in*
stern indignation, "Helen has been the most 4-1437
 miserable victim of
your evil ambitions for power,
greed, and lust.'" "What? Did she enthrall you, 4-1440

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

witless Menelaus, back
to her henpecked husband to defend
Helen?"' said Agamemnon with a cynical sneer. 4-1443
Then Menelaus drew out
his sword ready to strike and said:
"Nobody shall take my noble, virtuous wife 4-1446
from me. I will sail with
Helen home on this sacred day
of our reunion. The task of Achaean 4-1449
armies is over. You are not
any longer our commander-in-chief:
Each one of us must follow one's own destiny. 4-1452
I repent that I joined
with you in committing dreadful
misdeeds to the gods as well as countless 4-1455

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

innocent peoples for
your vainglory. Farewell, Agamemnon,
in our long-overdue homecoming across dark, 4-1458
tempestuous, treacherous seas.”
*In shock, Agamemnon rushed out. That
was the last time I saw the most abominable 4-1461
shameless villain,” said Helen
in indignation. “I remember,”
said I, “that Menelaus and Agamemnon 4-1464
quarrelled before they left Troy,
but I did not know what the real cause was.”
“We will look for your son, my dear Helen,” 4-1467
said Penelope, “combing
broad Troad. Do you keep any token
that may help us recognize a noble lad as 4-1470*

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*your true son?" "Take this necklace
with you, Penelope. If you come
across a lovely lad who has an exactly 4-1473
matching one, please embrace
him as the very son of Paris
and Helen. Tell my beloved Ganymede 4-1476
the tragic true story of
his heartbroken mother: Ah, who
can tell how much I loved him! Every day, 4-1479
I prayed to Zeus to grant
Ganymede to become a new
wise saviour of Trojans." Helen took off 4-1482
her necklace and handed it
to Penelope, elated with
new hopes. "I vow to gods, Helen," said I, 4-1485*

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*“that your wishes shall be fulfilled
as long as I live. But, first, let me
speak to the Spartans that their Queen Helen* 4-1488
*has been an innocent
victim of vile Agamemnon's
intrigues. If I fail to convince your people,* 4-1491
*let them stone me first—this
witless Odysseus so utterly
deceived by evil Agamemnon! What troubles* 4-1494
*hadn't I taken on for
the triumph of the Achaean armies?
I feel too ashamed to live on, unless I* 4-1497
*purge myself from my misdeeds,
inflicted on good Trojans.” “How much
I appreciate,” said Eteoneus, “your noble* 4-1500

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

heroic spirit, Odysseus!
But I fear that our people are
very likely to suspect you as a shrewd 4-1503
fabricator of glib:
fantastic fables about elusive
mysterious Helen. If I dare to tell 4-1506
the astounding real causes
of the tragic Trojan War, they will
laugh at me, as if I have lost my wit.” 4-1509
Sombre, bleak mood suffocated
us in the gloomy crypt. Suddenly,
Penelope took off her male disguise 4-1512
and urged Helen to put
it on: “*Hurry Helen; escape*
in disguise with Odysseus and brave guards!” 4-1515

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

I will follow you later.

You know I am a native Spartan.

Wait for me in Helos; together we shall 4-1518
sail to Troy first to find

your son. And then, let us venture
to Egypt. I have always dreamed of seeing 4-1521
that ancient land of great
wisdom nurtured by the mystic Nile.

You should be our useful guide as you have been 4-1524
in Egypt for many years.

Let us act with courage and hopes
to overcome challenging problems right now!" 4-1527

"O my dear Penelope
and Odysseus," said Helen in tears,
"how gallantly you have offered to risk your lives 4-1530

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*to save me! Your sublime
loves have freed me from the inner
prison of wrongly accused wanton Helen.* 4-1533

*How happy I am to end
this dreadful living-death, which I've been
suffering since Troy's ill-fated fall." Suddenly,* 4-1536

Helen took out a vial
of lethal poison from her belt
and drank it. *"Ah, Helen! What have you done?"* 4-1539

cried out Penelope,
embracing her fainting body. *"I feel
so happy and peaceful now,"* said Helen, 4-1542

beaming beauteous smiles,
"to die in your warm, kind bosom."
"O, Helen, forgive me!" cried I, *"how wrongly* 4-1545

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

*I used to blame you for
our woes and miseries. You are, indeed,
the beauteous daughter of Zeus; Now, I see* 4-1548
*the gracious and sacred
nobility of your gentle, sublime,
virtuous spirit!" "I don't trust," said Helen,* 4-1551
*"the boastful Tyndareus's claim
that Zeus loved Leda and begot me.
If I were his daughter, why would Zeus* 4-1554
*have tormented me with such
dire agonies and vile shames? I am
just a simple woman who've devoted to love,* 4-1557
*and be loved by true heart.
"Oh Helen, be you our merciful
goddess," said Penelope, "guiding us to* 4-1560

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

reach our true home for peace.”

“Farewell!” said Helen, beaming lovely
smiles, “resourceful Odysseus—in you, I see
the complete man! My dear

4-1563

*cousin Penelope—in you, I see
the perfect woman! May you bring the light
of truth and peace to this world.”*

4-1566

We wept speechless in heartbreaking
sorrows and heartfelt exaltation of Helen’s
gracious, loving spirit.

4-1569

Gently Helen raised her arms, as if
she embraced someone in the void and said:

4-1572

“O, you’ve come, my Paris,
*to lead me from this harsh, vile world
to the eternal realm of our true pure love!”*

4-1575

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

Thus whispered Helen rapt
in a trance and drew out her earthly
breath in blissful peace.' *Here pauses Odysseus* 4-1578
overwhelmed in deep emotions.
'Helen's life is, indeed, a deeply
moving and ineffable human tragedy;' 4-1581
says Outis in elation,
'Despite all her dire sufferings
of agonies, miseries, and cruel abuses, 4-1584
I feel her warm, vivacious,
and vibrant verve gently pervading
deep into my heart and soul. Her gracious 4-1587
noble spirit uplifts us
to breathe in the sublime with awe.'
'Sing, Outis, of the noble sacred spirit 4-1590

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

of beauteous Helen;
She should be exalted in the sublime
light of pure truth!' *says Odysseus in solemnity.* 4-1593
 'May gods help me sing anew
of true Helen for generations
of humanity to come. I solemnly vow 4-1596
 to you, my new Muse,
Odysseus, I will fulfill my task
before I pass away from this fleeting life! 4-1599
 I wish to know what
happened after her noble death.
Did you succeed in convincing the Spartans 4-1602
 to realize what horrible
crimes evil Atreidae had committed?'
 'Yes, Eteoneus accomplished that great task: 4-1605

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

Holding up Helen's body,
he spoke to the astonished Spartans
deep from his honest heart, expounding 4-1608
the Atreidae's evil
intrigues that had misled us.
The Spartans were so moved by him that they 4-1611
acclaimed Eteoneus
to be their new ruler. Soon, they
restored their civil order, mutual amity, 4-1614
and vigour as a fresh
revitalized country. At Helen's
stately funeral, the whole Spartans mourned her 4-1617
as if she were their own
beloved mother. To fulfill Helen's
wishes, I carried her ash in an urn to 4-1620

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

be united with Paris
in Troy, and Penelope wore
her old necklace to find her mystic son. 4-1623

In majestic procession
King Eteoneus and noble Spartans
escorted us from Sparta to Helos, while 4-1626
the revitalized people
of Lacedaemon lined up to pay
their respect and thanks to us with good cheers. 4-1629

At Helos, we saw off
trusty Pisistratus and his brave
warriors returning to Pylos, bidding 4-1632
our heartfelt farewell.

At last, we got aboard a Spartan
ship to sail to Troy across the vast sea. 4-1635

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

King Eteoneus spoke
in tears: "*Farewell virtuous Queen
Penelope and godlike King Odysseus!*" 4-1638
*You have saved my life, freed
our country from tyranny and chaos;
Most of all, you have redeemed the integrity* 4-1641
*of our gracious virtuous
Queen Helen from delusive disgrace!
Deep from my heart and soul, I salute you!"* 4-1644
"King Eteoneus," said I,
"steer well the helm of your new state,
upholding the lofty spirit of goddess Helen!" 4-1647
Penelope and I set
off the sleek ship and sailed to reach
our destiny of Troy across wide-open seas, 4-1650

Book 4: *Helen's Revelations at her Death*

carrying with us Helen's
ash to be united with that of Paris,
and her necklace to find their mysterious 4-1653
son, Ganymede, in Troad.'

'What astounding secrets, concealed
to our preceding generations of minstrels,' 4-1656
says Outis in elation,

'you have revealed to me, godlike
Odysseus! Who could have ever imagined 4-1659
that Odysseus—not Paris,
would carry Helen to Troy in
her ash—not in the flesh, accompanied by 4-1662
his virtuous, wise wife,
Penelope? The true story
of mystic Helen is so deep and moving 4-1665

Book 4: Helen's Revelations at her Death

that it takes away my breath
in awe and wonder.' *Thus exalts*
Outis the astounding revelation 4-1668
of his godlike hero.
Odysseus is immersed in deep
thoughts, reflecting on the sublime 4-1671
mystery of true Helen.
Eloquent silence prevails in this
timeless realm of imaginations. The insightful 4-1674
mind of Homer-Outis
imagines vital and crucial events
in his sublime, creative, numinous dream. 4-1677

To be continued in:

Awakening to One's Conscience:
Inner Journey into Human Nature {3}

Epilogue

[I] The present work is an imaginary narrative poem about the possible human causes of the Trojan War, based on the ancient classical epics on the Trojan War in the following references:

(I-A). *The Iliad of Homer*: translated by Murray, A. (1924), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard Univ. Press;
The Iliad of Homer: translated by Lattimore, R. (1951), University of Chicago Press; and
The Iliad of Homer: translated by Fagles, R (1990), Penguin Books.

(I-B). *The Odyssey of Homer*: translated by Murray, A. (1919), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard Univ. Press
The Odyssey of Homer: translated by Fitzgerald, R. (1961), Doubleday & Company; and
The Odyssey of Homer: translated by Fagles, R. (1996), Penguin Books.

(I-C) *Hesiod, The Homeric Hymns and Homerica*: translated by Evelyn-White, H. G. (1914), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard University Press.

(I-D) *The Aeneid of Virgil*: translated by Fairclough, H.R. (1935), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard University Press;
The Aeneid of Virgil: translated by Fitzgerald, R. (1981),
Vintage Classics.

(I-E) *Early Greek Myth* by Gantz, T. (1993), Johns Hopkins University Press.

(I-F) *The East Face of Helicon* by West, M. L. (1997),
Clarendon, Oxford University Press.

[II] This fictional narrative on the imaginary dialogues about the Trojan War between the narrator-character “*Odysseus*” and his listener-character “*Homer-Outis*” is neither a scholarly commentary nor an academic literary critique on *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* of Homer, at all.

It is merely what its naïve author has striven for many years to grasp possible meanings of the various ancient legends about the enigmatic and tragic Trojan War. *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* of Homer inspired him in deep awe and sheer wonders with many soul-searching questions on human nature.

[III] The present narrative is mainly concerned with the crucial questions about the possible human causes of the enigmatic Trojan War: How did it begin? What did happen during its first nine years? How did it end eventually in the final tenth year? What are the possible human causes behind the enigmatic mythical attributions to the conflicting wills of the Olympian gods and goddesses? Both *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* subtly evade to address these vital issues explicitly, as if their authors presumed that the audiences already knew them too well.

[IV] Some crucial episodes are invented in the present fiction which are substantially different from the traditional presumptions, implied in the ancient classical epics (listed in the above references in [I]) about the Trojan War as follows:

(IV-a) The character *Nestor*'s confession of his deep regret and sincere repentance of his involvement in the Trojan War to the characters *Penelope* and *Odysseus* {from the line 3-120 to the line 3-373 in this work} are merely an invention in this fiction, not mentioned in any references of [I].

(IV-b). The *Nestor*'s and *Odysseus*'s alternating recollections of the beginning and the first nine years of the Trojan War, addressed to *Penelope* {from line 3-436 to line 3-595}, are invented to imagine the early stages of the Trojan War, left unsung by Homer.

(IV-c) *Odysseus*'s narration to *Homer-Outis* about the first real combat between the Trojan and the Achaean armies in front of Troy in the final tenth-year {from line 3-623 to line 3-684} is an invention, never mentioned in *The Iliad*.

(IV-d) *Odysseus*'s confutation of the alleged 'Duel between Paris and Menelaus' so that they should fight it out for Helen in Book 3 of *The Iliad* {from line 3-686 to line 3-707 in this fiction} as an absurd, inane fib, made up by Homer-Meles {from line 3-708 to line 3-718} is a drastic contradiction to the Book 3 of *The Iliad*.

(IV-e) *Nestor*'s revelation of the Achilles's betrayal of the Achaean army {from line 3-833 to line 3-948} is surmised from Book 1 and Book 16 of *The Iliad*.

(IV-f) *Nestor*'s recollection of the heroic death of Hector to *Penelope* and *Odysseus* {from line 3-959 to line 3-1130} is a bold invention which contradicts to the relevant episode in Book 22 of *The Iliad*.

(IV-g) *Homer-Outis*'s serious question {from line 3-1134 to line 3-1181} and *Odysseus*'s cogent reply {from line 3-1182 to line 3-1221} are bold challenges to the episode in Book 22 of *The Iliad*.

(IV-h) *Nestor's* recollection of King Priam's visit to Achilles's tent for the ransom of Hector's body, addressed to *Penelope* {from line 3-1252 to line 3-1298}, is based on the relevant episode in Book 24 of *The Iliad*.

(IV-i) *Odysseus's* recollection of the death of Achilles to *Penelope* {from line 3-1338 to line 3-1408 in this work} is conjured up from relevant legends, compiled in *Early Greek Myth* by Timothy Ganz (see I-E). It is different from the Hector's prediction of Achilles's death by Paris, mentioned in Book 22 of *The Iliad*.

(IV-j) The episode of the sack of Troy, narrated by *Odysseus* to *Homer-Outis* in this fiction {from line 3-1493 to line 3-1651}, is radically different from the traditional stories of the Odysseus's use of the 'Wooden Horse.' It contradicts to the Aeneas's narration of the fall of Troy to Queen Dido in Book 1 of *The Aeneid* of Virgil and other legends about the alleged ploy of 'Wooden Horse.'

(IV-k) *Odysseus's* confutation {from line 3-1833 to line 3-1870} of the alleged legend of the Wooden Horse, which was built by the Achaeans as a reparation for the Trojan Palladium to appease the offended Athena {from line 3-1673 to line 3-1832} is an essential invention to make sense in this fiction.

(IV-l) *Nestor's* recollection of the final day of Troy and the death of King Priam {from line 3-1879 to line 3-1909} and the *Penelope's* response, and the death of *Nestor* {from line 3-1911 to line 3-1959} are inventions which are reasonably different from the traditional Greek myth to make this fiction sensible.

(IV-m) Other episodes in the present Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War by Nestor and Odysseus* follow the traditional stories of the Trojan War as narrated in the classical texts in references of [I].

[V] Book 4: *Helen's Crucial Revelations at her Death* is concerned with the following questions: <a> Why did Paris take a long voyage from Troy to Achaea? How did he meet with Helen, residing at Helos, a remote seaport of Lacedaemnon? <c> Why did Menelaus allow the alleged abduction of his wife Helen by a friendly foreign visitor Paris (who did not invade Helos with Trojan armada to abduct her)? <d> If Helen did elope with Paris to Troy, what were the real reasons which compelled her to take such a dangerous, bold, and disgraceful action?

Most translators of *The Iliad* mention in their introductions about the fabulous fable, called *The Cypria*, a lost epic poem attributed to Stasinus. It was about the origins of the Trojan War in mythical episodes such as the wedding of Peleus and Thetis; the Judgement of Paris (in a beauty contest among Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite) and so on; [for a later summary of the lost *Cypria* by Proclus, translated by Hugh G. Evelyn-White, see (I-C)].

The fabulous fable of '*The Judgement of Paris*' has been implicitly assumed to be the cause of the Achaean invasion of Troy. But Homer did not explicitly mention *the Judgement of Paris* in his *Iliad*; he subtly evaded it in many situations in which it seems quite pertinent to mention why Hera and Athena held such intense hatred against the Trojans in *The Iliad*.

The present fictional work attempts to look into the plausible human causes of the Trojan War, disregarding the fabulous mythical fables in *The Cypria* or other fables in the lost *Epic Cycles* [see (I-C)]. To pursue such an audacious adventure, it is necessary to invent some crucial episodes which are substantially different from the mythological fables as follows:

(V-a) The episode of the character *Helen*'s confession of her secrets to the characters, *Penelope* and *Odysseus* {from line 4-193 to line 4-523}, is an essential invention to solve the enigmas about Helen, Paris, Menelaus, and Agamemnon with regards the above question <c>, and <d>.

(V-b) The episode of Helen's confession to Priam about Agamemnon's plot for the invasion of Troy {from line 4-524 to line 4-561} is invented to provide a Trojan response to Helen's elopement with Paris to Troy.

(V-c) The episode of Casandra, Paris, and Helen {from line 4-562 to line 4-700} is invented to argue that the absurd and foolish farce of the *Judgement of Paris* was newly conjured up by the Trojan traitor, Antenor, and widely spread by Agamemnon as a potent and lethal propaganda for the invasion of Troad in the pretext of ‘abduction of Helen by Paris.’

(V-d) The episode of Agamemnon’s previous extensive touring of Troad, guided by Paris, and his visit of Mycenae at Agamemnon’s persuasion {from line 4-701 to line 4-797} is invented with regards to the questions <a> and .

(V-e) The episode of Antenor’s strong objections to and thwarting Paris’s plans {from line 4-811 to 4-942} is made up to account for why the Trojans failed to build the crucial naval forces to defeat the Achaean fleets at sea due to the powerful, ambitious, sly traitor within Troy: Antenor.

(V-f) The episode of Andromache, Helen, Cassandra, and Hector {from line 4-1032 to line 4-1169} is invented to imagine the Trojans’ account of the bloody conflicts in the final tenth year and to portray the character *Helen* as an honest, noble human being with sacred conscience.

(V-g) The episode of Helen and Paris's discussion about Odysseus {from line 4-1177 to line 4-1242} is invented for *Odysseus's* inner awakening from and repentance of his blind goal of the meaningless victory.

(V-h) The episode of *Eteoneus's* confession {from line 4-1254 to line 4-1287} is to confirm what *Helen* has revealed.

(V-i) The episode of Hermione's execution by the Trojan mobs and *Helen's* desperate reactions to the imminent dangers of her own death {from line 4-1290 to line 4-1301} is made up to describe the grave situation.

(V-j) The episode of *Odysseus* and *Penelope's* resolute determination to save *Helen* at any cost, and *Helen's* resolute determination to meet her timely death with integrity and honesty, and *Helen's* confession of her last wish to be united with her beloved Paris in Troy even as ashes {from line 4-1302 to line 4-1323} is invented to exalt the sacred conscience of these noble human beings.

(V-k) The episode of *Helen's* sudden recall of her son Ganymede by Paris (entrusted to the priestess of the shrine in Mount Ida just before the fall of Troy), the threat of her death by enraged Trojan mobs on her way back to Troy from Mt. Ida, and her rescue by the Menelaus's troops {from line 4-1327 to 4-1466} is to imagine *Helen's* desperate situations after the sack of Troy.

(V-l) The episode of *Odysseus* and *Penelope*'s solemn vow to venture to Troad to look for Ganymede {from line 4-1467 to line 4-1527} is invented for a future story of their pilgrimage to Troy.

(V-m) The episode of *Helen*'s ending of her own life and her moving farewell to *Odysseus* and *Penelope* (from line 4-1528 to line 4-1578} is to exalt *Helen* as a faithful, passionate lady with divine beauty; a loving devoted mother; and a gracious, vivacious, noble human being with sacred conscience.

[VI] The author confesses that this fiction is merely a daydream in his efforts to find some plausible answers to the soul-searching questions on human nature, inspired by *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* of Homer.

[VII] He hopes that his naïve imaginations may make some sense to the conscientious readers of the abstruse poetry of Homer in the future generations of humankind: *Homo sapience*. We happened to evolve over four billion years on this planet Earth, fleeting in the vast Universe. Now, we look into our own profound mystery of human nature with scared conscience and inquisitive, logical mind by use of our particular mental tool: *language*.

[VIII] The present narrative poem is written in the syllabic tercet stanzas. Book 3 sings in the descending tercet: 10-8-6 syllables per line, while Book 4 sings in the ascending tercet: 6-8-10 syllables. This is not a traditional English poem with the proper accentual prosody. Nonetheless, this strange syllabic writing is what its author could try best in his pidgin English to sing of the lofty ideas and sublime spirit of his revered ancient Greek poets who have inspired and nurtured him.

[IX] The author wishes to acknowledge and appreciate deep inspirations and soul-searching influences by *The Divine Comedy* of Dante (1265 – 1321). The adoption of the tercet stanzas in his humble works has been inspired by the *terza rima* of *La Commedia* of Dante.

The sublime spirituality, the beauty of exquisite poetic form, and the deeply moving music of *La Commedia* of Dante are high above far beyond his reach. Yet, they inspire him like the mysterious spiritual stars shining in the inner heaven.

Art Aeon

